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AG Barr unveils plan on missing Native Americans

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

PABLO, Mont. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr announced a nationwide plan Friday to address the crisis of missing and slain Native American women as concerns mount over the level of violence they face. Barr announced the plan, known as the Missing

and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative, during a visit with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials on the Flathead Reservation in Montana.

Native American women experience some of the nation's highest rates of murder, sexual violence and domestic abuse.

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Attorney General William Barr, center, shakes hands with Vernon Finley, left, and Tony Incashola, right, after they presented him with a blanket during a Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes council meeting, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, on the Flathead Reservation in Pablo, Mont.

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AG Barr unveils plan on missing Native Americans

Continued from Front

The National Institute of Justice estimates that 1.5 million Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime, including many who are victims of sexual violence. On some reservations, federal studies have shown women are killed at a rate more than 10 times the national average.

The Justice Department's new initiative would invest \$1.5 million to hire specialized coordinators in 11 U.S. attorney's offices across the U.S. with significant Indian Country caseloads. The coordinators would be responsible for developing protocols for a better law enforcement response to missing persons cases. Montana's coordinator, a former FBI agent, already has started in his position.

Tribal or local law enforcement officials would also be able to call on the FBI for additional help in some missing indigenous persons

cases. The FBI could then deploy some of its specialized teams, including investigators who focus on child abduction or evidence collection and special agents who can help do a quick analysis of digital evidence and social media accounts.

The Justice Department also committed to conducting an in-depth analysis of federal databases and its data collection practices to determine if there are ways to improve the gathering of information in missing persons cases.

"This is not a panacea," Barr told tribal council members of the Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes at an event where members presented him with a blue blanket before a traditional musical performance. "This is a step in the right direction, but we have a lot more work to do working together."

Barr said he spoke to President Donald Trump about



Attorney General William Barr speaks at a Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes council meeting, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, on the Flathead Reservation in Pablo, Mont. Sitting with Barr are Kurt Alme, left, U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana, and Tracy Toulou, director of the Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice.

Associated Press

the initiative, which calls for some of the same things already in legislation pending in Congress. He also spoke to tribal leaders about how a surge in methamphetamine use may be influencing violence in Indian Country.

On the nation's largest Native American reservation, tribal members welcomed the extra resources and commitment to the issue but questioned how far the money will go, given how widespread the problem is. "This is stuff we've been advocating for, it's just funding a slice of it," said Amber Crotty, a lawmaker on the Navajo Nation.

Crotty pointed out that the hiring of 11 coordinators assigned to federal prosecutor offices nationally as outlined by Barr could have limited value on the Navajo Nation, which is part of three separate U.S. attorney jurisdictions in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

She said tribes are looking to the federal government to fund advocates who can greet families of victims, relay information from law enforcement and provide training. She said tribal communities have resorted to organizing their own search parties and posting fliers in communities and on social media when someone goes missing because they sometimes get little or no response from law enforcement.

The extent of the problem

of missing and murdered Native American women is difficult to know because of the dysfunction surrounding the issue.

An Associated Press investigation last year found that nobody knows precisely how many Native American women have gone missing or have been killed nationwide because many cases go unreported, others aren't well documented, and no government database specifically tracks them.

A report released last year by the Urban Indian Health Institute said there were 5,712 cases of missing and murdered indigenous girls in 2016, but only 116 of those cases were logged in a Justice Department database.

That study is limited in scope, however.

The report by the Seattle nonprofit reflected data from 71 U.S. cities not on tribal land. Researchers said they expect their figures represent an undercount because some police departments in cities with substantial Native American populations — like Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Billings, Montana — didn't respond to records requests or Native Americans were identified as belonging to another race.

Members of Congress asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office in May to review jurisdictional challenges, existing databases, federal policies, law enforcement staffing and notification systems and make recommendations for improvement. The office said Thursday the work is under way.

Bills in Congress seek to address the crisis, and a half-dozen states have vowed to study the problem.

Meanwhile, activists have held rallies at state capitols, marched in the streets, put up memorials and billboards, bought television advertising and created exhibits with space for prayer offerings to draw attention to missing indigenous women.

The movement has featured women with a red hand print over their mouths, in what activists say is a symbol of the silencing of indigenous women.

Curtison Badonie with the New Mexico-based Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women said the Justice Department's plan is a positive move in seeking justice for indigenous women and girls, and their grieving families and communities.

"Finally, they're moving forward with this and they're taking our existence seriously and are listening and knowing our sisters, our aunties, our grandmas, our nieces are important," Badonie said. "They are sacred, they are human beings. We feel hopeful. We feel seen." □

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Asylum-seekers in Arizona to be bused to Texas, then Mexico



In this Nov. 6, 2019 file photo, Border Patrol agents apprehend a man thought to have entered the country illegally, near McAllen, Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities have started busing asylum-seekers who cross the border in Arizona to Texas, where they are sent to Mexico to await court hearings, according to reports and advocacy groups.

The government said its highly criticized program known colloquially as Remain in Mexico was now in effect all along the border. Critics say the move makes it nearly impossible to gain asylum in the U.S.

"At taxpayer expense, this decision will transport people seeking asylum in Arizona over 300 miles to a dangerous Mexican city, where it is difficult to access legal services and where few people have the support of their family and communities," said Katie Sharar, director of communications for the Kino Border Initiative, a Catholic organization that helps migrants.

U.S. officials say the program has helped drastically reduce the number of migrants arriving at the border.

The program "works and

is a game-changer in addressing the ongoing border crisis," Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said in a tweet Friday.

The Washington Post first reported that authorities planned on busing asylum-seekers from Arizona to El Paso. Migrants apprehended in Arizona will also be subject to the program, called Migrant Protection Protocols.

The program was launched in January and has forced more than 55,000 asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico. They often wait in squalid camps, and many are kidnapped, robbed or extorted.

Until now, the program didn't exist in the Tucson Sector, which over the past year has seen just a fraction of the migrant families who have crossed elsewhere along the border.

The Rio Grande Valley, El Paso and Yuma, Arizona, have experienced the largest volumes of migrant families, many seeking asylum.

In May, at the height of immigrant apprehensions this

year, the El Paso Sector saw nearly 30,000 families come through, while Tucson saw just over 1,700.

The numbers dropped quickly over the summer in the busiest crossing spots, the result of several policies

making it nearly impossible to seek asylum in the U.S. Tucson saw an uptick in families, to about 1,900 in September.

Immigrants and advocates say the program violates basic rights of asylum-

seekers and places them in grave danger by making them wait in cities where even the U.S. government warns against visiting. A legal challenge of the program is pending in California. □

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Biden files papers for South Carolina presidential primary

By MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

ABBEVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Joe Biden has made his presidential bid official in South Carolina.

The former vice president filed his paperwork as a candidate in next year's Democratic primary during a stop Friday at a soul food restaurant in Abbeville.

Surrounded by a crush of media and lunchtime patrons at Food for the Soul,

a tiny restaurant boasting a menu of fried chicken, pork chops and burgers, Biden signed his candidacy papers at a booth with state Democratic Party Chairman Trav Robertson.

"You're officially on the ballot!" Robertson told Biden, above a din of applause from supporters.

"I'm going to need your help," Biden said to the crowd.

Polls have generally shown



Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks at a town hall held at Lander University on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Greenwood, S.C.

Associated Press

Biden leading his rivals in South Carolina, where he maintains high popularity among the heavily black Democratic electorate. On Thursday night, he held a town hall event in Greenwood with a crowd of about 825, according to his campaign. In a CNN interview airing Friday, Biden was asked about Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who has called for Biden's son Hunter to testify in the impeach-

ment inquiry into President Donald Trump. Trump has accused Hunter Biden of using his father's influence to get a high-paying job on the board of the Ukrainian energy company Burisma, and Democrats say Trump held up military aid to Ukraine to prompt an investigation into the Bidens. "I am disappointed and quite frankly I'm angered," Biden said. "(Graham) knows me. He knows my son. He knows there's noth-

ing to this. Trump is now essentially holding power over him that even the Ukrainians wouldn't yield to."

Biden added: "And Lindsey is about to go down in a way that I think he's going to regret his whole life."

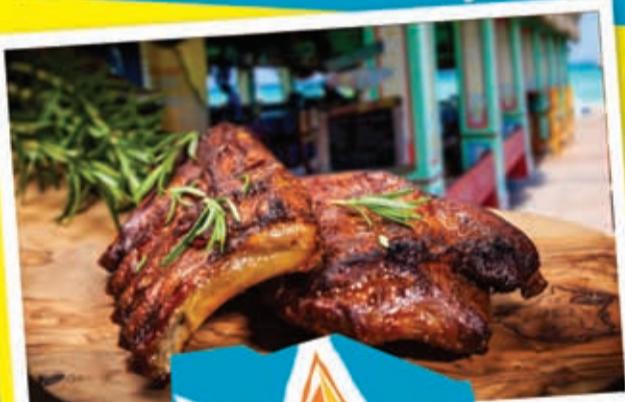
Biden joins Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, on the ballot for South Carolina's Feb. 29 primary, the first in a Southern state. □

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Washington state deals setback to massive methanol plant

By GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state dealt a setback Friday to efforts to build one of the world's biggest methanol plants on the Columbia River, saying that five years in, its backers had failed to provide enough information about its greenhouse gas emissions and how they would be offset.

The \$2 billion Northwest Innovation Works project would take natural gas from Canada and convert it into methanol, which would be shipped to China to make olefins — compounds used in everything from fabrics and contact lenses to iPhones and medical equipment.

Backers, including Cowlitz County and the Port of Kalama, said the project would reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by displacing China's use of coal to make methanol. They provided regulators with a third-party analysis suggesting that over the project's life it would reduce global emissions by at least 10 million metric tons per year.

They called that the single largest initiative in Washington for reducing emissions — equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.

But environmental groups said there was no evidence to support that statement and that the project would create huge emissions of its own. In its decision Friday, the Washington Department of Ecology said fur-



In this 2017 file photo, Mark Keely, of Kalama, Wash., stands with other protesters outside the Washington Department of Ecology's Vancouver field office in 2017.

Associated Press

ther review was necessary "to determine the adequacy of the proposed mitigation for the Project."

The review is expected to take about a year. "The company continues to rely on this very dubious claim that their methanol is going to replace dirtier methanol made from coal," said Brett Vanden-Heuvel, executive director of the conservation group Columbia Riverkeeper.

"There's just no justification for that. The Department of Ecology is doing its job."

In emailed statements, Northwest Innovation Works said Friday it was disappointed but "prepared for the long haul" and ready to prove its project will reduce global emissions.

The company, which is backed by the Chinese government, has noted that it offered to mitigate for all greenhouse gas emissions it generates in the state, and that it was investing in technology that would eliminate all water discharge from its facility into the Columbia River. The company says that because producing methanol from natural gas costs about half what it costs to make from coal, it would have a competitive advantage — as well as an environmental one — over Chinese methanol production.

"If this doesn't get built, the result will not be less material produced in the world," Kent Caputo, gen-

eral counsel of Northwest Innovation Works, said earlier this week. "It will be that those materials will be produced in countries that do not adhere to the environmental and regulatory standards that Washington state has."

Ecology requested additional information about the emissions in its comments on a draft environmental impact statement last year. The backers then filed a supplemental environmental impact statement in August. Ecology again requested more information in October and gave supporters 30 days to produce it.

They responded on Nov. 4, objecting that some of the information sought had

already been provided or was beyond what state law required.

Ecology's decision Friday came about a week after conservation and public health groups, including Columbia Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, sued in U.S. District Court in Tacoma to invalidate key federal permits for the project.

The groups said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not properly consider the huge amount of greenhouse gases the project would emit — more than 1 million tons per year, an amount that would increase Washington's greenhouse gas emissions by 1%.

They also said federal reviews had failed to properly consider the project's effects on threatened salmon runs and on endangered orcas.

Local officials have supported the project, noting it would bring about 1,000 construction jobs and 190 longer-term positions to the region.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee used to support it, saying it would help clean up China's plastics industry. He changed his mind last May amid his short-lived presidential run, which centered on combatting climate change. He said that because of the urgency of the threat from global warming, he could no longer support launching massive new fossil-fuel infrastructure in the state. □

Students arrested for separate threats at 2 LA-area schools

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Deputies arrested a 13-year-old boy and seized a semi-automatic rifle after he threatened to shoot other students and staff at a Los Angeles-area middle school, authorities said Friday.

In a separate case, a boy at another school was taken into custody involving a planned shooting.

The arrests came barely a week after deputies were frantically summoned to a

high school in Santa Clarita, where a 16-year-old boy killed two fellow students and took his own life. Since then, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has investigated at least 30 school threats, spokesman Sgt. Bob Boese said.

The incidents that resulted in the arrests were the only ones deemed credible.

At Animo Mae Jemison Charter Middle School in Willowbrook, just south of downtown Los Angeles,

multiple students overheard the 13-year-old say Thursday that he would carry out the shooting on campus the following day, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said. The students alerted teachers and police were notified.

Deputies searched the boy's home and discovered an AR-15-style rifle, 100 rounds of ammunition, a list of names and a drawing of the school, Villanueva said.

The boy was arrested with-

out incident on suspicion of making criminal threats. A 19-year-old male relative also was arrested on suspicion of possessing an unregistered firearm, Boese said. The man, who was not identified, was held on \$35,000 bail, he said.

Investigators were trying to determine who owns the gun that authorities initially called a ghost gun — a weapon without a serial number made from parts from other guns. Villanueva later clarified the weapon

has a serial number.

Villanueva praised school officials for quickly notifying authorities about the threat.

"The fact that people stepped forward and said what they had heard led us to prevent a tragedy today," he said.

The other boy was arrested Thursday in Palmdale, north of Los Angeles. Villanueva said the student at Knight High School made threats on social media following a campus fight. □

Boy Scouts mortgage vast New Mexico ranch as collateral

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

The Boy Scouts of America has mortgaged one of the most spectacular properties it owns, the vast Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, to help secure a line of credit as the financially strapped organization faces a growing wave of new sex-abuse lawsuits. The BSA said Friday that it has no plans to sell the property, and that the land is being used as collateral to help meet financial needs that include rising insurance costs related to sex-abuse litigation.

However, the move dismayed a member of Philmont's oversight committee, who says it violates agreements made when the land was donated in 1938. The BSA disputed his assertion.

Top BSA officials signed the document in March, but members of the Philmont Ranch Committee only recently learned of the development, according to committee member Mark Stinnett.

In a memo sent to his fellow



In this July 2001 file photo, a double rainbow is shown in the early evening in Philmont Scout Ranch, N.M.

members, Stinnett — a Colorado-based lawyer — decried the financial maneuver and the lack of consultation with the committee. "I cannot begin to tell you how sorry I am to be the one to break this news to you," Stinnett wrote. "The first point of the Scout Law is 'A Scout is trustworthy.' I am distressed beyond words at learning that our leaders apparently have not been."

"But I am even more distressed to learn that Waite Phillips' magnificent gift has now been put at risk," Stinnett added.

Phillips was a successful oilman who used some of his fortune to develop a huge ranch in northeastern New Mexico. In 1938, and again in 1941, he donated two large tracts of the ranch to the Boy Scouts.

Since the first Boy Scout camp opened there in

Associated Press

1939, more than 1 million Scouts and other adventurers have camped and hiked on the property, which now covers more than 140,000 acres (56,650 hectares). One of its many trails leads to the 12,441-foot (3,793-meter) summit of Baldy Mountain.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, the Boy Scouts said programming and operations at Philmont "continue uninterrupted, and we are committed to ensuring that the property will continue to serve and benefit the Scouting community for years to come."

"In the face of rising insurance costs, it was necessary for the BSA to take some actions earlier this year to address our current financial situation," the BSA said. "This included identifying certain properties, including Philmont Scout Ranch, that could be used as collateral in order to keep in place an existing line of credit for insurance." Disclosure of the mortgage comes at a challenging time for the BSA, which for years has been entangled in costly litigation with plaintiffs who said they were abused by scout leaders in their youth. Hundreds of new lawsuits loom after New York, New Jersey, Arizona and California enacted laws making it easier for victims of long-ago abuse to seek damages.

The BSA, headquartered in Irving, Texas, says it's explor-

ing "all available options" to maintain its programs and has not ruled out the possibility of filing for bankruptcy.

Seeking to ease some of the financial pressure, the BSA announced in October that the annual membership fee for its 2.2 million youth members will rise from \$33 to \$60, while the fee for adult volunteers will rise from \$33 to \$36. The news dismayed numerous local scout leaders, who had already started registering youths for the coming year.

According to Stinnett, the BSA used the ranch as collateral to secure \$446 million of debt with J.P. Morgan Chase.

Stinnett wrote that ranch committee member Julie Puckett — a granddaughter of Waite Phillips — had urged BSA officials in recent weeks to recognize Philmont as a restricted asset based on the understandings of all parties when Phillips donated the land.

"BSA management has instead stated its position that Philmont and its endowment are free and clear of restrictions and are thus theirs to take or encumber as they wish," Stinnett wrote, depicting that stance as a "betrayal" of agreements made with the Phillips family.

The Boy Scouts disputed Stinnett's assertion, saying nothing in the agreements with the Phillips family prevented the ranch from being used as collateral.

Philmont has been one of scouting's most popular destinations for decades. At many times of the year, Philmont can't accommodate all those who want to trek there; it offers an online lottery, held about 18 months in advance, to give everyone an equal shot.

Most activities take place during the summer, but Philmont also has autumn and winter programs. In addition to backpacking treks, it offers horseback riding, burrow packing, gold panning, chuckwagon dinners, rock climbing, mountain biking and sport shooting. □



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The CDC's Gieraltowski said that suggests there's a persisting contamination source in the environment. This Nov. 20, 2018 file photo shows Romaine Lettuce in Simi Valley, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. officials: Don't eat romaine grown in Salinas, California

By CANDICE CHOI
AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday told people to avoid romaine lettuce grown in Salinas, California, because of another food poisoning outbreak.

The notice comes almost exactly one year after a similar outbreak led to a blanket warning about romaine. Officials urged Americans not to eat the leafy green if the label doesn't say where it was grown. They also urged supermarkets and restaurants not to serve or sell the lettuce, unless they're sure it was grown elsewhere.

The warning applies to all types of romaine from the Salinas region, include whole heads, hearts and pre-cut salad mixes.

"We're concerned this romaine could be in other products," said Laura Gieraltowski, lead investigator of the outbreak at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Officials said their investigation led to farms in Salinas and that they are looking for the source of E. coli tied to the illnesses. Salinas is a major growing region for romaine from around April to this time of year, when growing shifts south to Yuma, Arizona. After last year's pre-Thanksgiving outbreak tied to romaine, the pro-

duce industry agreed to voluntarily label the lettuce with harvest regions. Health officials said that would make it easier to trace romaine and issue more specific public health warnings when outbreaks happen.

Officials never identified exactly how romaine might have become contaminated in past outbreaks. But another outbreak in spring 2018 that sickened more than 200 people and killed five was traced to tainted irrigation water near a cattle lot. (E. coli is found in the feces of animal like cows.)

It's not clear exactly why romaine keeps popping up in outbreaks, but food safety experts note the popularity of romaine lettuce and the difficulty of eliminating risk for produce grown in open fields and eaten raw.

Industry groups noted that they tightened safety measures following last year's outbreaks, including expanding buffer zones between growing fields and livestock.

The CDC says 40 people have been reported sick so far in 16 states. The most recent reported illness started on Nov. 10. The agency says it's the same E. coli strain tied to previous outbreaks, including the one from last Thanksgiving. □



Former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky leaves the Centre County Courthouse after attending a resentencing hearing on his 45-count child sexual abuse conviction Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Jerry Sandusky resentenced to 30 to 60 years, same as before

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — A judge dashed the hopes of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky for a shorter prison term Friday, resentencing him to the same 30 to 60 years imposed against him in 2012 for sexually abusing children.

Judge Maureen Skerda gave Sandusky what prosecutors and his own attorney described as effectively a life term during a hearing ordered this year by an appeals court.

Sandusky's 2011 arrest prompted the firing of Hall of Fame head coach Joe Paterno and the university has paid more than \$100 million to people who said they had been abused by Sandusky.

He was convicted of 45 counts of child sexual abuse in 2012.

Sandusky, 75, in a mustard yellow prison jumpsuit, again asserted his innocence Friday and choked up twice during brief remarks in open court before the sentence was handed down.

"I apologize that I'm unable to admit remorse for this because it's something that I didn't do," Sandusky told Skerda.

Sandusky told the judge Fri-

day about a recent phone call with an unnamed woman who formerly worked for The Second Mile, a charity he founded for at-risk youth that he used to find and groom child victims.

Sandusky said the woman ended the phone call by telling him she loves him. "No matter what, nobody or nothing will ever be able to take away what's in my heart. And that was just one. There are many, many, many more," he said, people he "had every opportunity to betray and didn't." He ended with a message to people who support him. About a dozen were in the courtroom, including his wife, Dottie. "To those supporters out there, I just want to say I love you," he said, sobbing as he sat down.

Prosecutor Jennifer Buck, of the state attorney general's office, described problems Sandusky has had in state prison, including disputes about returning his meal tray, resistance to being moved from his cell and complaints about phone calls.

"It's failure to take responsibility, claiming that he is the victim, which is a theme throughout this case, and that it's his rights that are being violated," Buck told the judge.

Sandusky attorney Al Lindsay noted he had recently received several letters that attested to Sandusky's character and to good deeds he has performed.

Buck argued that jurors believed the eight young men who testified against Sandusky, victims she said were sexually assaulted "by someone that they loved, someone that they trusted, someone that betrayed them." Attorney General Josh Shapiro said in a written statement that "justice was again achieved for his victims."

A state appeals court this year turned down most of Sandusky's arguments seeking a new trial but said laws mandating sentence minimums in place at the time of his October 2012 sentencing had since changed.

Victims said at trial that Sandusky subjected them to a range of abuse, from grooming to violent attacks. A victim advocate read several letters to the judge Friday from the men who testified at trial or their relatives.

The letters described the effect of their abuse as boys and in the years since, including anxiety, difficulty with family and social relationships and anger about what occurred. □

UK party leaders grilled by wary voters on Brexit and more

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Dec. 12 vote has been dubbed the "Brexit election," dominated by the country's stalled exit from the European Union. But political parties are also trying to win over voters more worried about the U.K.'s stuttering economy and frayed social fabric.

The electorate remains deeply skeptical of politicians' promises, if a televised question-and-answer session on Friday is any indication.

The leaders of Britain's four biggest parties — Prime Minister Boris Johnson, main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party and Jo Swinson of the pro-EU Liberal Democrats — faced questions from a studio audience selected to reflect the level of the parties' support.

Corbyn, the first to be quizzed on the BBC show, faced tough questions about his party's left-wing policies — branded reckless and terrifying by one questioner — and drew groans when he declined to say whether he supported leaving the European Union or remaining.

Corbyn said he would remain neutral because "my whole strategy has been to bring people together,



Nigel Farage, Leader of Britain's Brexit Party speaks on stage at the launch of their policies for the General Election campaign, in London, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

however they voted in the referendum in 2016."

Johnson pushed for Britain to hold the December election, which is taking place more than two years early, in hopes of winning a majority and breaking Britain's political impasse over Brexit.

Johnson says if voters give the Conservatives a majority he will "get Brexit done" by getting Parliament to ratify his Brexit divorce deal and taking the U.K. out of the EU by the current Brexit deadline of Jan. 31.

Labour says it will negotiate a better Brexit deal with the EU, then hold a new refer-

endum offering British voters a choice between leaving the EU on those terms or remaining.

The election's focus has broadened beyond Brexit this week as the parties unveiled their detailed policy platforms. Such manifestos are a British election staple and their publication is a major campaign event for each party.

The Labour Party published its wide-ranging manifesto on Thursday, setting out plans for a radical expansion of public spending and state ownership.

Labour promised to nationalize Britain's railways,

energy utilities and postal system; cap rents; hike the minimum wage; abolish university tuition fees and give everyone free internet access if it wins the Dec. 12 election.

Corbyn said the measures in the party's "manifesto of hope" would be paid for by increasing taxes on corporations and high earners.

Johnson has labeled Labour's policies "ruinous." Johnson's Conservative Party and the Scottish National Party have not yet published their own manifestos.

The Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru also released

Associated Press

its manifesto Friday, calling for billions of pounds (dollars) in new investment in renewable energy to create "tens of thousands of green-collar jobs."

Plaid Cymru — Welsh for the Party of Wales — opposes Brexit. It's calling for a new referendum on Britain's EU membership and backs an eventual vote on Welsh independence. The party held four seats in the last Parliament.

The broadening focus of the election means even the Brexit Party, led by veteran euroskeptic Nigel Farage, published a list of policy pledges on Friday that went far beyond leaving the EU.

The party, which wants Britain to make a sharp break with the 28-nation bloc, is also calling for a "political revolution" in the U.K. It wants a written constitution, the abolition of Parliament's unelected House of Lords, more public referendums and a cut in immigration to below 50,000 people a year, less than a quarter of Britain's current rate.

Founded earlier this year, the Brexit Party currently has none of the 650 seats up for grabs in the House of Commons in the December vote. It is running in almost 300 seats but has withdrawn from 317 Conservative-dominated constituencies to avoid splitting the pro-Brexit vote. □

Poland approves controversial judges to constitutional court



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, takes the oath of office from Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and members of the new government in power, at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland, Friday, Nov. 15, 2019.

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP)

— Poland's parliament

elected three ruling party nominees as judges to the constitutional court, including two widely denounced

by opposition lawmakers, raising concerns about the court's independence.

Parliament voted the judges in late Thursday during a heated session that included calls of "Disgrace!" by opposition lawmakers. The president must still swear them in. The Constitutional Tribunal's responsibilities include ensuring that legislation conforms with the constitution. The most disputed of the three judges is Stanislaw Piotrowicz, a former communist-era state prosecutor and the architect of laws pushed by the conservative ruling Law and Justice party over the past four

years that the European Union says erode judicial independence. Piotrowicz lost his seat in parliament in October elections.

Law and Justice often justifies its overhaul of the justice system by saying it is cleaning up corruption and purging remnants of the communist system that ended 30 years ago. The party has faced accusations of hypocrisy for making a former communist prosecutor the face of its reforms. Some say his role is an indication that the changes actually amount to a power grab.

The judicial changes have

sparked numerous street protests in recent years by Poles who fear they pose a threat to democracy.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki defended Piotrowicz this week, saying he "behaved decently" with the cases he handled during the communist era. Piotrowicz has also faced criticism for appearing to protect a priest found guilty of sexual abuse of minors.

The other disputed nominee is Krystyna Pawlowicz, a jurist and former lawmaker whose hard-right rhetoric at one point prompted Law and Justice to say she would leave politics. □

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French women demand action amid high domestic violence rate

By CLAIRE PARKER

Associated Press

LES MUREAUX, France (AP)

— Sylvia. Dalila. Aminata. Céline. Julie. Their names are plastered on buildings and headlines across France, calling attention to their shared fate: Each was killed, allegedly by a current or former partner this year. More than 130 women have died from domestic violence this year alone in France, according to activists who track the deaths. European Union studies show France has a higher rate of domestic violence than most of its European peers. And frustrated activists have drawn national attention to a problem President Emmanuel Macron has called "France's shame."

Under cover of night, activists have glued posters with the names of the dead and calls to action to French city walls. "Complaints ignored, women killed," read the black block letters on one such sign. They have also posted anti-violence slogans, tagged with Macron's name.

By the hundreds, women have walked silently through city streets after each new death.

Two years after Macron made a campaign pledge to tackle the problem, his centrist French government has begun to act.

A Justice Ministry report released earlier this month acknowledged authorities' systematic failure to intervene to prevent domestic violence slayings. On Monday, the government will announce measures that are expected to include



In this Nov. 8 2019 photo, Sarah stands next to slogan reading "Their hate, our dead" in Paris.

Associated Press

seizing firearms from people suspected of domestic violence, prioritizing police training and formally recognizing "psychological violence" as a form of domestic violence.

Women are not the only victims of domestic violence, but French officials say they make up the vast majority.

Lawyers and victims' advocates say women are too often disbelieved or turned away by French law enforcement. But they're encouraged by the new national conversation, which they say marks a departure from decades of denial.

"In France, we always have the impression that we are perfect," activist Caroline de Haas told The Associated Press.

A 2014 EU survey of 42,000

women across all 28 member states found that 26% of French women respondents said they been abused by a partner since age 15, either physically or sexually.

That's below the global average of 30%, according to UN Women. But it's 4 percentage points above the EU average and the sixth highest among EU countries.

Half that number reported experiencing such abuse in Spain, which implemented a series of legal and educational measures in 2004 that slashed its domestic violence rates.

Conversations about domestic violence have also ratcheted up in neighboring Germany, where activists are demanding that the term "femicide" be used to

describe such killings.

In France, victims and advocates say government action is overdue — and that more training is needed for police who are often ill-prepared to protect women in danger.

Police inaction made national headlines in France after Macron visited a hotline call center in September and listened in on a call with a 57-year-old woman whose husband had threatened to kill her. He heard a police officer on the other end tell the woman he couldn't help her.

The hotline operator told Macron that such responses weren't unusual.

Police officers across Europe often dismiss domestic violence as a private matter and fail to intervene at crucial moments, an EU

study found this year. But France is particularly bad, said EU researcher Albin Dearing, who led a study this year that examined domestic violence in seven European countries, including France.

"When it comes to violence against women, it showed actually that police do very little to protect women who turn to them for protection," he said. It can take between three weeks and two months for authorities to act on a complaint, leaving the victim "in a very fragile situation," according to Frederique Martz, who runs anti-domestic violence organization Women Safe. The Justice Ministry report this month found that 41% of "conjugal homicide" victims studied had previously reported incidents of domestic violence, and 80% of complaints sent to prosecutors went uninvestigated.

"Our system doesn't work to protect women," Justice Minister Nicole Belloubet told French TV channel LCI after another French woman was allegedly killed by her husband in Alsace last week.

But Maj. Fabienne Boulard of the national police said many officers respond appropriately to reports of domestic violence. Those who don't — the ones who react "clumsily" or ask the wrong questions — usually don't mean harm, she added; they just don't recognize domestic violence or know how to intervene.

This is particularly true when women receive threats but not yet physical blows, victims say. □

Parallel national day rallies by Lebanon protesters, leaders

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's top politicians made their first joint appearance Friday since massive anti-government protests erupted last month, attending a military parade for the country's 76th Independence Day.

Protesters gathered for alternative independence celebrations, converging by early afternoon on Martyrs' Square in central Beirut, which used to be the traditional location of the official parade. Protesters have occupied the area, closing it off to traffic since mid-October.

The demonstrations that began on Oct. 17 against proposed taxes on WhatsApp calls turned into a condemnation of the country's political elite, who have run the country since the 1975-90 civil war.

"They don't want the country to change. They want it to stay the same and they want us to leave," said one protester who appeared in the square dressed as Charlie Chaplin and gave her name only as Joyce. "I am an actress. I don't want to leave this country. I want to stay here, work here and live in Lebanon."

Hundreds waved Lebanese flags and sang the national anthem, while marches set



Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri attends a military parade to mark the 76th anniversary of Lebanon's independence from France at the Lebanese Defense Ministry, in Yarzeh near Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

out from different neighborhoods in the capital toward the square, the epicenter of the protests, facing the waterfront and near the government headquarters and parliament.

The limited official Independence Day display reflects the changing mood in Lebanon, which is facing its most serious political and economic crises in years. Leaderless anti-government protests have gripped the country since mid-October, while a deadlock among the top leaders has failed to pro-

duce a government three weeks after Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned.

The protesters are calling for a new government and elections outside of the traditional sectarian-based power-sharing agreement. Facing a plunging economy and high rates of unemployment, Lebanon's young have played a leading role in efforts to topple the political elite they accuse of corruption and years of mismanagement that have left with little options but to migrate.

The actress raised a ban-

ner that read: "You people have the power to make life free and beautiful."

A white banner was hung between two trees. Activists called on attendees to draw and "be creative" about how they want to commemorate independence. One person scribbled: "This is a popular Independence Day. Independence from a corrupt authority. November 22 is a day with a different flavor." At the official celebrations earlier Friday, Hariri maintained a stern expression during the military

Associated Press

parade, while President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri exchanged smiles. The leaders exchanged a few words during the 30-minute parade of marching soldiers. There was no display of tanks or helicopters and no foreign dignitaries were in attendance.

Berri and Aoun immediately left after the parade ended, while Hariri milled around for a little longer exchanging words with the commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

A day earlier, Aoun had said a consensus on forming a government remained far off because of "contradictions that control Lebanese politics." He didn't elaborate. He also told protesters "only dialogue is the right path to resolve crises."

In an ominous sign, unknown vandals set fire to a large cardboard fist in Beirut's protest camp, which had become a symbol of the uprising. The first had been painted with the word "Revolution."

Videos and photos circulating on social media showed the fist catching fire at dawn Friday. Protesters who were camped out in the square quickly tried to put out the blaze. A single protester defiantly raised his fist in the air beside the charred effigy. □

Bosnian govt fires care home overseers over abuse claims

Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The government of one of Bosnia's two autonomous parts on Friday fired members of the oversight team of a public care home, yielding to popular pressure after an opposition lawmaker published photos of abuse of special needs children.

The decision was taken the day after public protests triggered by photos of children restrained in an inhuman fashion, including by being tied to radiators or left crying on beds in straitjackets.

The photos were released by an opposition lawmaker, Sabina Cudic, who said



People attend a protest in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

Vesko Drijaca, the minister of labor and social policy in the government of the Bosniak-Croat Federation. "That special needs children were affected makes

it even more shocking," he added. However, while the government officials were announcing their decision, several hundred people protested outside the government building in downtown Sarajevo.

Upon hearing the news, the crowd that included parents of special needs children, pledged to continue protesting the government's hesitation and lack of transparency.

"Replacing (the members of the oversight team) is not enough, not any more," said Muhic Medina, mother of a 8-year-old disabled boy. "We want those responsible for wrongdoing that has been going on

for years to be prosecuted and everyone who has any responsibility for allowing this to happen to be replaced," she added.

Other protesters, who carried banners decrying government corruption and incompetence, echoed her sentiment.

The Pazaric home for special needs children was already under investigation on suspicion of financial misconduct by a previous manager and other executive staff appointed by the government of the Bosniak-Croat Federation. The implicated manager and some other members of staff were replaced last spring. □



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In reversal, Seoul to keep Japan military intelligence pact

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

In a major policy reversal, South Korea said Friday it has decided to continue a 2016 military intelligence-sharing agreement with Japan that it previously said it would terminate amid ongoing tensions over wartime history and trade.

The announcement, made just six hours before the agreement was to expire, followed a strong U.S. push to save the pact, which has been a major symbol of the countries' three-way security cooperation in the face of North Korea's nuclear threat and China's growing influence. The office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in said it decided to suspend the effect of the three months' notice it gave in August to terminate the agreement after Tokyo agreed to reciprocal measures.

But Kim You-geun, deputy director of South Korea's presidential national security office, said the move was based on the premise that it could end the arrangement at any time depending on how relations



Kim You-geun, deputy director of South Korea's presidential national security office, speaks at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

with Tokyo proceed.

Kim also said South Korea decided to halt a complaint it filed with the World Trade Organization over Japan's tightened controls on exports of key chemicals that South Korean companies use to make computer chips and displays.

The Japanese government said it has agreed to resume discussions with South Korea on resolving their

dispute over the export controls. The military agreement, which Japan had sought to maintain, is automatically extended every year unless either country notifies the other 90 days in advance of its intention to terminate it, a deadline that fell in August.

Washington had no immediate reaction to Seoul's announcement.

Most South Korean analysts

had anticipated that the Moon government would let the agreement expire, saying there was no clear way for Seoul to renew it without losing face.

Some saw the Trump administration's public demands for South Korea to reverse the key diplomatic decision as a profound lack of respect for an ally.

The squabble over the Seoul-Tokyo pact came at

a delicate time for the alliance between the United States and South Korea. The two countries have struggled to deal with North Korea's nuclear threat while squabbling over defense costs. There's also concern that Trump, after already suspending major U.S.-South Korean military exercises he described as "ridiculous and expensive," may seek to reduce the U.S. military presence in South Korea to accommodate a deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. South Korea's August declaration that it would terminate the General Security of Military Intelligence Agreement, or GSOMIA, with Japan came shortly after Tokyo removed its neighbor from a "white list" of countries receiving preferential treatment in trade. South Korea saw Tokyo's move, which followed strengthened controls on technology exports to South Korean chip and display manufacturers, as retaliation over political disputes stemming from Japan's use of Koreans for forced labor before the end of World War II. □

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Kim You-geun, deputy director of South Korea's presidential national security office, speaks at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

With da Silva out of prison, Workers' Party seeks strategy

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — As Brazil's largest leftist party gathers to plan the future, a figure that has dominated its past looms ever larger. Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is the unquestioned star of the party conference starting Friday in Sao Paulo, and many still think he could be the party's standard-bearer once again in 2022 — when he'll be a 77-year-old cancer survivor who is now barred from seeking office due to a corruption conviction.

Da Silva, who governed Brazil between 2003 and 2010 is fresh out of jail after 19 months behind bars — at least pending a court ruling on appeals of a conviction that followers are convinced was unfair, and pending possible convictions on other charges. Most analysts see him more as a potential king-maker and strategist for a party he was instrumental in transforming. The former union leader took a party long seen as a radical fringe and brought it to power in 2003, winning adulation from millions for presiding over more than a decade of prosperity and reducing poverty with policies that were far more business friendly than many foes had feared.

That record was increasingly stained by corruption scandals that finally snared da Silva himself, and the 80% approval ratings he



Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks to supporters during a rally at the Metal Workers Union headquarters, in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

enjoyed on leaving office in 2010 have slipped to about 40% today — even so, better than that of the current president.

Still, many on the left still see him as the only politician who can today organize the opposition to far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who last year ended the Workers' Party string of victory in four consecutive elections — and who topped a less-charismatic candidate chosen by da Silva.

The left came out weakened from the last election, and President Bolsonaro, a former army captain who much like U.S. President Donald Trump has broken free from conventional ways of governing.

The Workers' Party remains the biggest party in the lower house, with 54 seats. But even under da Silva, it required alliances with smaller parties to govern — parties that eventually proved unreliable allies. Da Silva's Workers' Party successor, Dilma Rousseff was impeached in 2016 when former coalition members turned against her. And the Workers' Party candidate in the last election, Fernando Haddad, lost with less than 45 percent of the vote.

Political analyst Fábio Kerche, at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro state, said da Silva has already sent signals that he would try to reach beyond the party core, to the center and center right, pos-

sibly building a broader democratic front against Bolsonaro.

He noted that da Silva has shown the ability to attract a broad range of voters and political allies alike, and said, "Once again, this will be his mission."

During his two mandates, da Silva managed to implement a program heavily focused on fighting extreme poverty, without radicalizing his administration or alienating the business sector, Kerche said.

Following his release from prison earlier this month, da Silva gathered thousands of supporters outside the Sao Paulo union that he once led and that later served as the base for his political career.

He was accompanied by former presidential candidate Fernando Haddad and federal lawmaker Marcelo Freixo of the left-wing Socialism and Liberty Party. But many also wonder how much control the former leader is willing to let go. Da Silva is hoping that the Supreme Court will deliver a ruling that could cancel the cases in which he is accused of corruption and money laundering — and such a ruling would legally open the path to another presidential run.

Brazilian political analyst Carlos Melo said the Workers' Party has failed to prepare a successor.

"There is this structural problem in the (Workers' Party), which has not consolidated new leaderships in a dimension close to that of Lula."

Both Rousseff and Haddad lacked the charismatic spark that helped da Silva electrify audiences.

Brazil, like much of Latin America, has struggled to shake off a certain cult of personality. "Unfortunately, right or left, personalities have a greater appeal than institutions," Melo said.

Whether the former leader runs or not, all agree that he will act as the left's great strategist, the brain of the campaign.

"Any candidate on the left will have to reach out to the center, or he won't win," Melo said. "And any candidate on the left, will have to pass by (da Silva)." □

Mexican Congress approves budget after protests



In this Aug. 19, 2016 file photo, lettuce farmer Edgar Serralde sets out lunch for his workers and their son, in Mexico City's borough Xochimilco.

Associated Press

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's lower house of Congress approved the 2020 federal budget Friday in an all-night meeting at a convention center after protests and blockades by farm groups surrounding the Congress building. The protests were sparked by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's policy of giving money directly to farmers and poor families rather than distributing funds through groups that claim to represent them.

The farm groups often build autocratic fiefdoms in the Mexican countryside, forcing members to participate in protests in order to receive benefits.

Lopez Obrador's Morena party instead focused on direct transfers and farm subsidies to prevent such groups from skimming aid money for themselves. Many of the farm groups also functioned as political allies of the old ruling party, which Morena displaced in 2018 elections.

But opposition legislators

also criticized Morena for cutting funds for regulatory and watchdog agencies the president has tangled with. Opponents said those cuts will make it hard to hold free, fair and reliable elections.

Rep. Fernando Galindo of the former ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party said the budget will cut about \$77 million from the attorney general's office at a time when crime is rampant, and about \$55 million from the federal election agency. □

LOCAL



Aruba Art Fair: 'Creating a platform for local and international art'

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Art Fair is welcoming you this weekend. The inspirational town of San Nicolas will be filled with art, culture, food and music. You cannot miss this opportunity to see another side of Aruba and connect to the local community. So hop in your car or take that cab to our 'Street Art Capital of the Caribbean'.

The main street of San Nicolas presents you performing artists, artesans offering their hand made artifacts, poets and dancers, theatre and street artists. Also there will be a pop-up restaurant with an Indian theme catered by the Renaissance Aruba Resort. The magazine Forbes named San Nicolas the Street Art Capital City because of its colorful murals that were created by over 30 artists from all over the world. Local designers added their input to these open-air art works among others Robby Solognier, Armando Goedgedrag and George Rossel. This year the youngster Rachid Lowe (15) created one of the murals.

Art fair supports creative young people like the Gang di Arte, poets, dancers and musicians. Tonight the Art Fair will pay special attention to Aruba's culture of music, food, traditions, art and identification. In that light the edition is called Caya Aruba. Sunday's Art Fair highlights the multicultural face of the island whereas more than 30 nationalities will present their culture through dances, music and food. The focus will be on integration and eliminate war to unite.

International artists will show a 3D art work called 'Optic augmentation or optical illusions' while local artists will create another jewel of mural drawing. Our local artists Elvis Tromp will be honored for his contribution of more than 50 years to the art of painting.

Aruba Art Fair 2019 starts at 7Pm and more information is to be found at Facebook Aruba Art Fair. □



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By Bonnie Gortler

NEW YORK, USA — The start of the holiday season is almost here. In less than two months, a new year begins. January is the most popular time when new goals begin. A new beginning, new opportunities, and possibilities, a time to invest in YOU. Investing in you is something to do all year long, not just for a holiday, or a week or occasionally. Yes, this sometimes may be challenging, but in the long run, taking care of your health and well-being helps everything and everyone around you.

Begin taking small strategic steps toward your goals and desires. Each success brings you closer to a life of tranquility instead of a life filled with stress and worry. You will become healthier and happier if you work toward your dreams at a consistent steady pace. Doing more doesn't always make things better. You will be surprised how pleasurable and relaxing life is when you begin to focus on your passion, doing what you love.

Tranquility is defined by Dictionary.com as a "quality or state of being, calmness, peacefulness, quiet, and serenity." I wish this for all of you.

Whether it's during the holiday season, the start of a New Year, or another day, making well-being a priority is necessary. Did

you ever notice how some days you are super busy and other days are quiet and peaceful? Wouldn't it be great if you could jump-start your day on your terms? You can have this now, once you decide to create a real change in your life. By doing some simple action steps, creating change in your life, you could have a lifestyle of peace and tranquility doing what you enjoy. Below are simple practices you can choose to start doing that resonate with you. Improve your well-being with small changes and begin feeling more inner peace.

14 Simple Practices to Improve Your Well-Being with New Tranquility and Less Stress

1. Start your day an hour earlier, creating some private time for you. Add some of your favorite music while enjoying your surroundings. Once you do so, you will be pleasantly surprised by how much you get done during this peaceful time of the day. What a great way to start your day.
2. Choose something that you enjoy doing that gives you pleasure. Whether it be writing, prayer, meditation, or exercise. It doesn't matter the activity. It's whatever you love to do that will begin shifting your thoughts into a more positive frame of mind and calm. (I love my time I take for writing, exercise, and researching
3. Sit quietly for a few minutes during the day to clear your mind from the stress. Start to think of positive thoughts.
4. Do less. I'm sure you have heard of the K.I.S.S. principle—Keep it simple stupid. Do you use this principle? If not, why? Stop now and decide to remove one item that you often do and are not getting the results you desire and simplify it. By using this principle, you will get more done, be happier and less stressed.
5. Enjoy your journey setting goals for three months, six months, and one year. Pick on one goal to start working on in the short term, moving you towards your longer-term goal. Choose one thing at a time, focus on it, and make it happen.
6. Create a morning and evening routine to start and end your day on a positive note.
7. Plan a time to go through your E-mail inbox, getting rid of what is not important, or filing the email in a specific folder.
8. Clear your desk regularly, helping you from feeling overwhelmed. I clean off my desk from my corporate job every Friday before I leave to go home.
9. Respond to others without reacting. Raise your awareness of your surroundings. If someone says or does something to you that you don't like, say and do nothing. Count to 10 before you respond. If you don't have something nice to say, don't.
10. Be kind and compassionate to others and thoughtful of how others feel. Think about what the other person might be going through. Don't judge them. Remember, there are
11. Make it a point to be patient and gentle on yourself when you slip up. If you had a little too much to eat during your day, or at a party, don't beat yourself up. Give yourself some space. You don't have to be perfect.
12. Move your body. Make exercise a daily routine. Start with five minutes each day. Expand the time with what works for you. Exercise not only helps you lose weight, but many times makes you feel so much better to like it has done for me.
13. Find your passion. Do what you love to do regularly. Let your creativity shine. You will be happier, more tranquil, and less stressed.
14. Be held accountable. Find a coach or partner who will support you on your journey. You get to choose how you start your day. All it takes to get started is choosing one action step and following through with focused attention. Once you start and establish your routine consistently, you will create real change. Believe in yourself. Let today be the day that you make the decision that will lead you toward less stress and more tranquility as your dreams become a reality.

two sides to every story and sometimes even three.

11. Make it a point to be patient and gentle on yourself when you slip up. If you had a little too much to eat during your day, or at a party, don't beat yourself up. Give yourself some space. You don't have to be perfect.
12. Move your body. Make exercise a daily routine. Start with five minutes each day. Expand the time with what works for you. Exercise not only helps you lose weight, but many times makes you feel so much better to like it has done for me.
13. Find your passion. Do what you love to do regularly. Let your creativity shine. You will be happier, more tranquil, and less stressed.
14. Be held accountable. Find a coach or partner who will support you on your journey.

You get to choose how you start your day. All it takes to get started is choosing one action step and following through with focused attention. Once you start and establish your routine consistently, you will create real change. Believe in yourself. Let today be the day that you make the decision that will lead you toward less stress and more tranquility as your dreams become a reality.

If you liked this article you will love Bonnie's Free eBook: Grow Your Wealth And Well-Being□

About Bonnie Gortler:

Bonnie Gortler, the Wealth & Well-Being Coach, is a successful stock market expert who has been instrumental in managing multi-million-dollar client portfolios within a top-rated investment firm during her over 35-year corporate career. As the author of "Journey to Wealth", Bonnie has made it her mission to share the importance of risk management and how to enjoy true financial well-being by applying the technical and mental sides of investing. Bonnie has an M.B.A. in Business Administration and is a certified life coach. Visit BonnieGortler.com to learn more about investing, well-being, and personal development.



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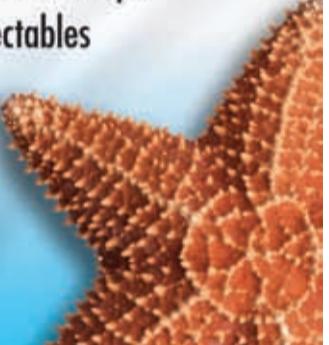
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ORANJESTAD — A country so rich of cultures has much culinary secrets to offer. Café the Plaza in Renaissance Marketplace is organizing a culinary Surinam Night on Monday November 25th.

Suriname has a very rich and interesting cuisine and is quite different from the rest of the continent. This is because Suriname is made up of people from many different cultures including those from India, Africa, Indonesia, China, and the Netherlands. In fact, 90 percent of those established in the country have ancestors from other countries and regions around the world. It is only natural that the food of Suriname is a combination of many other countries' cuisines, and in turn, is unique in its own right.

Expect a 4-course dinner buffet with appetizers like spring rolls, satay, fried shrimp. As main course you can enjoy pom pie, chicken soy, rendang and lean pork; served with yellow rice, bami, gado gado, moksi alesie, sour veggies, sambal, kroepoek and baka bana. Dessert is a surprise mix and it's followed by an aperitif of ginger beer and orgeade.

Reservations is required. So, gather all your friends and family and make your reservation for this special night at Café the Plaza. For more information, go to Cafetheplaza.com. Do you love Surinam food? □



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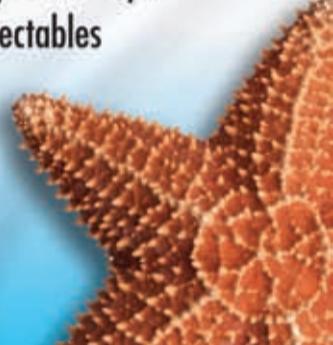
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Looking forward to the next 10



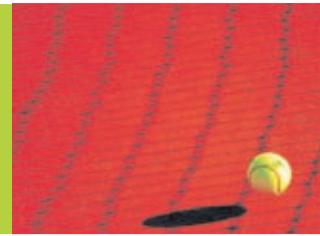
EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Brandon and Dawn Paine from USA. They have been visiting the island 10 years consecutively and will surely be back for another 10!

This wonderful couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people that became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Tamarijn Aruba all-Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

SPORTS



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Giannis has triple-double, Bucks beat Trail Blazers

By KEITH JENKINS
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee crowd greeted Carmelo Anthony with a loud ovation when the 10-time All-Star was introduced before the game. It cheered louder after the Bucks extended their winning streak to six straight. Giannis Antetokounmpo had his second triple-double of the season and Milwaukee beat Anthony and the short-handed Portland Trail Blazers 137-129 on Thursday night.

"Giannis is Giannis," Anthony said about the reigning MVP. "He's a tough check. I thought tonight we actually did a pretty good job. Even though he had a triple-double, when you look at that, it's like 'Oh, he had a hell of a game.' But I thought, for the most part, we were back on him. We loaded up on him. He got some and-1s, he got going a little bit."

Continued on Page 23

SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT



Texans edge Colts 20-17, take AFC South lead

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett (7) is pressured by Houston Texans outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus (59) and linebacker Jake Martin (54) during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press
Page 20

Kim stays 2 shots up, halfway to \$1.5M at LPGA finale

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Sei Young Kim wasted two good birdie chances late in the second round Friday when she got a pep talk from an unlikely source.

Cristie Kerr was working as a commentator for Golf Channel, and on the long walk to the 18th tee, she told Kim that a strong finish in the CME Group Tour Championship would make dinner that much better.

"I just said, 'Yeah, I'm going to make the birdie.' Yeah, it come true," Kim said.

She fired a 6-iron to the perfect spot in the middle of the green and watched it roll toward the back pin until stopping less than 2 feet away. Kim tapped in for a birdie and a 5-under 67, keeping her lead at two shots in the chase for the richest prize in women's golf.

Kim has made only one bogey over two rounds at Tiburon Golf Club and was at 12-under 132.

Everyone around her had far more excitement, not all of it good.

Caroline Masson of Germany atoned for missing a birdie chance on the par-5 17th by rolling in a 40-foot birdie putt from off the green and through the shadows on the final hole for a 66 that closed the



Sei Young Kim tees off on 7th hole during the 2019 CME Group Tour Golf Championship at the Tiburón Golf Club, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019 in Naples, Fla.

gap to one shot until Kim finished with her birdie. They will be in the final group on Saturday, moving closer to a shot at the \$1.5 million to the winner.

Brooke Henderson of Canada began her second round with a double bogey on the par-5 opening hole. She finished much better, with five birdies over her final seven holes that put her squarely back into the mix with a 67, leaving her three shots behind.

Henderson has a home not far from Naples and gets a big following, many of them Canadians in Florida for the winter.

"Great crowd, great energy out here," Henderson

said. "I'm excited to be playing the weekend near the top of the leaderboard, so it should be fun."

Also three shots back was Nelly Korda, the top American in the women's world ranking at No. 3, who didn't finish so well. Korda provided the biggest challenge to Kim all day, firing darts into the seventh and ninth greens for short birdie putts that gave her a 31 on the front nine and gave her a one-shot lead. Korda was one shot behind when she missed a birdie putt on the par-3 16th, and then shockingly missed the 2-foot par putt.

"It's not going to be the last putt I miss," Korda said. "It's

just how it is." Looking to get a shot back on the 17th, Korda instead hit a hard hook off the tee beyond the cart path and through the dirt until it came to rest under a tree.

"May be been a little ticked off," Korda said with a grin. "I did snipe it left into the trees." She had no choice but to pitch back to the fairway and did well to give herself a birdie chance with a shot into about 15 feet, only to miss it. She made par on the final hole for a 68. Su Oh of Australia had a 67 and was four behind, while the group five back included defending champion Lexi Thompson and Jessica Korda, both

Associated Press

with 67s. The format for the season finale changed this year, from only the top 12 in the Race to CME Globe have a chance at the \$1 million bonus to all 60 players in the field winning \$1.5 million in official money just by winning the tournament. Friday was critical not to lose much ground.

Jin Young Ko, who received her award Thursday as LPGA player of the year, shot a 69 and remained eight shots behind. Jeongeun Lee6, the U.S. Women's Open champion, felt a burden lifted and shot 67. She had six birdies, twice as many as the first round.

The burden had nothing to do with the big prize. Lee6 was rookie of the year, and she gave a moving speech in English before a full banquet room and without notes, having rehearsed it for two months. She received the loudest ovation of the night.

"A lot of people this morning were cheering and then they were congratulating me and then they saw that, 'Oh, she did really well with the speech,' and I felt really good about it," Lee6 said. "And I felt like really good feelings about today, so my shots and my putting were good so far. But I kind of want to try my best I can for the last two rounds." □

President Trump meets with 22 college championship teams



President Donald Trump stands with members of the Queens University of Charlotte Swim Team during the NCAA Collegiate National Champions Day at the White House, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, in Washington.

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump met Friday with athletes and

teams have become politically loaded events during Trump's presidency, and Friday's gathering was no different.

Elise Gout, a member of Columbia University's 2019 championship fencing team, said she and three of her teammates had hoped to present Trump with the letter arguing that Trump has "perpetuated a culture that conditions women and minority gender identities to be silent — to sacrifice the space they have every right to take up."

But Gout said the athletes were told by a Trump aide that they could not bring the letter with them during their brief meeting with

Trump in the East Room of the White House. The letter stated it only represented the views of the four signatories, fencers who competed on the 2019 championship team and graduated earlier this year, and not Columbia University or the fencing team.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the Columbia fencers' visit with Trump was cordial, and White House staff extended an invitation for the athletes and coach to come back to the White House at a later date to discuss any policy concerns they have. Some athletes, including members of the World Cup-winning women's national

soccer team and Sean Doolittle from the World Series champion Washington Nationals, have declined the White House invitations from Trump. Others, like the NBA's Golden State Warriors and the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles, have been disinherited after players criticized the president. Others have warmly embraced Trump.

Trump, an avid golfer, spent a few moments with each team Friday, but he lingered a little bit longer with Stanford University's men's golf team. He invited all the champs to come take a peek at the Oval Office.

"So far, nobody's turned that one down," Trump joked. □

coaches from 22 collegiate national championship teams. Traditional White House visits for champion college and pro sports

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Ingram leads Pelicans past Suns 124-121

By JOSE M. ROMERO

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Saddled with four fouls and struggling with his shot, Brandon Ingram stayed aggressive. It worked out quite well.

Ingram scored 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and JJ Redick had 26 points, leading the New Orleans Pelicans to a 124-121 win over the Phoenix Suns on Thursday night.

"Just seeing what the defense was giving me. I was forcing it a little bit in the first half," Ingram said. "Not letting the game come to me. I tried to open up the floor a little bit by passing it to my teammates for shot on the wings, then finally finding attack space and knocking down shots."

Jrue Holiday had 23 points and nine assists for the Pelicans, who earned their third straight win. E'Twaun Moore added a season-high 19 points.

Ingram's drive and strong finish at the rim while being

fouled helped New Orleans open a 122-115 lead with 1:25 to play.

But a technical foul, a turnover and a foul on a 3-pointer gave Phoenix a little hope.

Holiday missed two free throws with 0.5 seconds to play, giving the Suns a chance to tie after a quick timeout. But the Suns couldn't get a good shot up. "Anytime you can win on the road it's a great win, but obviously we have to do much better than that," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "We have to be smarter down the stretch."

Kelly Oubre Jr. led Phoenix with 25 points in its third consecutive loss. Devin Booker had 19 for the short-handed Suns, who were without starting center Aron Baynes and starting point guard Ricky Rubio.

The Pelicans held the lead in the fourth quarter from start to finish. Phoenix got as close as two points down at 117-115 with 2:22

remaining. Ingram then made a turnaround jumper before his big three-point play, helping New Orleans pull away again.

The Pelicans made their first 10 shots of the third quarter to take an 83-76 lead, with Redick scoring 10 points in that run. New Orleans didn't miss a shot until the 5:34 mark, but lost the lead briefly before carrying a 95-94 advantage into the fourth.

"We came out (in the third) and I think they scored 15 points in four minutes," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "There's no scheme for that, you just have to be more locked into the game."

Kenrich Williams' layup — his only two points of the game — off a pass from Ingram put the Pelicans ahead 105-96 at the 10:18 mark of the fourth quarter. Oubre's 3 at the second-quarter buzzer gave the Suns their largest lead of the half at 66-59.

Oubre blew kisses to the



New Orleans Pelicans forward Brandon Ingram (14) drives past Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

crowd after the shot. He had 17 first-half points.

Pelicans guard Lonzo Ball came off the bench and had eight points and five assists in his first game since Nov. 8.

Ball had been dealing with a strained groin.

ARENA PROJECT UNVEILED

The Suns unveiled renderings and details of the planned renovation of Talking Stick Resort Arena during a pregame event at the nearby Phoenix Convention Center. Suns

managing partner Robert Sarver went over the numerous upgrades for the Suns' home, which opened in 1992. The \$230 million project is a joint effort between the team and Phoenix city government.

"Most importantly, (the project) will feature state-of-the-art improvements that will allow us to deliver a world-class guest experience to all of our great fans," Sarver said in a statement from the team. □

Hopkins has 2 TDs, Texans beat Colts 20-17 to top AFC South

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Determined to bounce back from an embarrassing loss, the Houston Texans used big performances from Deshaun Watson and DeAndre Hopkins and solid defense to beat the Indianapolis Colts and move into first place in the AFC South.

Watson threw two touchdown passes to Hopkins and finished with 298 yards to help the Texans to the 20-17 win Thursday night.

The Texans (7-4), who were routed by Baltimore 41-7 on Sunday, trailed by four early in the fourth quarter when Hopkins got in front of Pierre Desir and stretched out to haul in a 30-yard reception for a 20-17 lead. The Texans got things going on that drive with a 33-yard run by Carlos Hyde.

"It was a good team win," coach Bill O'Brien said. "Guys came in here on Monday to turn the page and were very focused ... this week and it showed up on the field."

Houston's defense stepped up after the touchdown by Hopkins, forcing a punt on the next drive before stopping the Colts (6-5) on fourth-and-7 with 3 minutes left. Jacoby Brissett threw for 129 yards, and came up a yard shy of a first down on Indy's fourth-down attempt late in the fourth quarter.

"There's still plenty of football left, and we're far from



Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) makes a catch for a touchdown against the Indianapolis Colts during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

out of this thing," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "This was a playoff atmosphere. Obviously, it was a good opportunity for us to take sole possession and have a sweep of Houston, but it didn't work out that way."

Hopkins finished with 94 yards receiving and his first TD reception came on a 35-yard grab in the second quarter.

Will Fuller, who returned after sitting out three games with a hamstring injury, had seven catches for 140 yards for the Texans.

"Anytime we have a healthy Will ... he's been a very productive guy," O'Brien said.

"He's made chunk plays for us, touchdowns, and he's a great player. And when we get him as a part of our offense it really helps us and it opens up a lot of different things."

Watson was able to complete several long throws on Thursday including ones for 51 and 44 yards to Fuller. "I was able to put enough air on the ball and let our guys make plays and that's what they get paid to do, that's what they love to do," Watson said. "Just give them a chance and most likely they're going to come down with it."

T.Y. Hilton had topped 100 receiving yards in four of his

last six games against the Texans and entered averaging 133.3 receiving yards in seven career games at NRG Stadium. He wasn't a factor, finishing with just 18 yards receiving in his return after missing three games with a calf injury.

Reich said Hilton was limited on Thursday and that they wanted to keep him under 30 plays. There were about 6 minutes left in the third quarter when Jonathan Williams, who helped fill in for injured starter Marlon Mack, wriggled away from three defenders and dashed 13 yards for a touchdown to put the Colts up 17-10.

Fuller had a 51-yard recep-

tion on the first play of Houston's next drive, but the Texans couldn't move the ball after that and settled for a 36-yard field goal to cut the lead to four.

The Texans led 3-0 after a field goal early in the second quarter.

There were about 8 minutes left in the second when Kenny Moore tipped a pass from Watson and intercepted it. It was the first time Watson had thrown an interception at home since Oct. 14, 2018, against the Bills, a streak of 303 attempts which was the longest active run in the NFL.

The Colts cashed in on the mistake when Brissett scrambled 5 yards for a touchdown to make it 7-3.

There were 2 minutes left in the first half when Watson avoided the rush and found Hopkins wide open in the end zone for a 35-yard touchdown pass to put Houston back on top 10-7.

"I don't know where the safeties and the corners were, but they weren't in position, so I just kind of laid it out there," Watson said.

Indianapolis added a field goal at the end of the first half to leave it tied at 10-10 at halftime.

INJURIES

Houston ILB Dylan Cole injured his calf in the second half and didn't return. ... Texans DE Carlos Watkins left in the fourth quarter with a hamstring injury. □

Jets release rugby league star Holmes from practice squad

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Valentine Holmes gave his NFL dream a chance. Now, the rugby league star is set to return to Australia to resume his already successful career.

The New York Jets released Holmes, who played running back and wide receiver, from their practice squad Friday.

The 24-year-old Holmes joined New York in April as part of the NFL's International Player Pathway Program.

He participated in off-season workouts, training



In this Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019 file photo, New York Jets' Valentine Holmes warms up before the team's preseason NFL football game against the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

camp and the preseason with New York. As part of the NFL's program, all four

players to continue working on their football skills.

Holmes was a standout winger and fullback for the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks of the National Rugby League. He headed to the United States for a chance to pursue his dream of playing American football in the NFL. Holmes had one year left on his contract with the Sharks, but instead had the team release him and passed up about \$720,000.

"I just felt like I wanted to test myself as a person and an athlete," Holmes told The Associated Press in August.

"I wasn't really thinking

about what I was giving up, I guess. It was just that I wanted to chase more."

Holmes is a massive star in Australia, racking up 369 points in five seasons with the Sharks. He represented Australia in the 2017 Rugby League World Cup, where he set a record with 12 tries — the equivalent of touchdowns — in the tournament.

Holmes first worked out for NFL scouts in Los Angeles in 2016, and spent three months early this year learning American football at IMG Academy in Florida before joining the Jets in the spring. □

NFL This Week: 49ers-Packers square off to highlight Week 12

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

Jimmy Garoppolo and the San Francisco 49ers refuse to look too far ahead on their schedule. Especially this week while staring at a showdown with Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers.

The thing is, though, this matchup could go a long way in helping determine the teams' seeding when the playoffs start. So, this one Sunday night at Levi's Stadium will have a bit of a postseason feel for both the 49ers (9-1) and Packers (8-2).

"With the (49ers) faithful and everything, having them helping out the defense and just getting the place rocking will be huge," Garoppolo said. "The louder they can be, the better. But, yeah, it'll be a big game Sunday."

"This is a great opportunity, great challenge for us." It's also the highlight of a Week 12 slate of games on the NFL schedule.

San Francisco begins a three-game stretch against teams currently in first place — and all with 8-2 records — including Green Bay, Baltimore and New Orleans.

"I don't even think about playoff seeding right now," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "Our goal is to get in the playoffs. We're all right there. There's still a lot of football left. Each game we win, we've got a better chance at getting in there. You don't think about seeds, at least I don't, until you can narrow it down to one or two games. I think we're far from that right now."

The 49ers showed some resilience last week, rallying from 16 points down to beat Arizona for the team's biggest regular-season comeback since 2011.

Meanwhile, the Packers are coming off a 24-16 victory over Carolina at home, giving them five wins in their past six games.

"We've been finding a way to win, different ways," Rodgers said. "I think great

teams understand their roles and embrace them and make it more about the team."

And, Green Bay is no stranger to playing in front of big TV audiences: The Packers are 3-1 in prime-time games this season.

Arizona (3-7-1), Minnesota (8-3), Kansas City (7-4) and the Los Angeles Chargers (4-7) are the final teams this season to take their bye-week breaks.

BALTIMORE (8-2) at LOS ANGELES RAMS (6-4)

Lamar Jackson and the Ravens play in LA on Monday night on a six-game winning streak, the longest active run in the NFL and the team's best since 2000 — when they won Super Bowl. Baltimore has done it mostly in dominant fashion, too, having won four in a row by 14 points or more.

Jared Goff and the Rams have won three of four to stay in the NFC playoff race. Los Angeles will also see a familiar face: Ravens cornerback Marcus Peters was acquired in a trade with the Rams on Oct. 15 and has returned two interceptions for touchdowns while with Baltimore.

DALLAS (6-4) at NEW ENGLAND (9-1)

The Cowboys have the NFL's top-ranked offense, and the Patriots are ranked No. 1 in defense.

So, something's got to give, right?

Dallas' Dak Prescott leads the league with 322.1 passing yards per game and is on pace to be the first Cowboys QB to top the NFL in yards passing for a full season. He also has 38 wins since entering the NFL in 2016, second most in the league during that span behind — yep, you guessed it: the Patriots' Tom Brady.

With a win Sunday, New England would extend its streak to 17 consecutive seasons with at least 10 wins — which would be an NFL record.

SEATTLE (8-2) at PHILADELPHIA (5-5)

This matchup is highlighted by streaking quarterbacks,

with the Seahawks' Russell Wilson and Eagles' Carson Wentz each having thrown at least one touchdown pass in 13 consecutive regular-season games, the longest active run in the NFL. Wilson is looking to improve to 4-0 in his career against the Eagles. And, Seattle has been terrific on the road, going 5-0 so far away from home.

Wentz and the Eagles are struggling on offense right now and are coming off a 17-10 loss to New England last week.

CAROLINA (5-5) at NEW ORLEANS (8-2)

Christian McCaffrey has been a huge bright spot in what has been an up-and-down season in Carolina. The Panthers running back is the first NFL player with at least 1,000 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving in his team's first 10 games of season. He has also eclipsed 140 scrimmage yards in each of past four games — although Carolina is 1-3 in those.

New Orleans also has a record-breaking star on offense in wide receiver Michael Thomas, who leads the league with 94 receptions, the most by a player in the first 10 games of a season in NFL history. He's also the first player with 90-plus receptions in each of his first four seasons.

JACKSONVILLE (4-6) at TENNESSEE (5-5)

The Jaguars are looking to sweep the Titans for the first time since 2005 after Jacksonville made things miserable for then-Tennessee quarterback Marcus Mariota, who was sacked nine times in the 20-7 loss in Week 3.

Ryan Tannehill is under center this time around for the Titans and has three-game winning drives in four starts. He has also been solid at home, where he has a 100 or higher passer rating in three games.

Nick Foles is Jacksonville's quarterback for this meeting after Gardner Minshew played in his place while he sat out because of injury. Foles threw for 296



ABOVE: San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) passes against the Arizona Cardinals during the second half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

BELOW: Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers reacts after an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019, in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers won 24-16.



yards and two TDs with one interception in a 33-13 loss to Indianapolis, his first start since the opener.

DENVER (3-7) at BUFFALO (7-3)

The Bills are off to their best start after 10 games in 20 years, and the play of Josh Allen has been a big reason.

Buffalo's second-year quarterback earned AFC offensive player of week honors after going 21 of 33 for 256 yards and three touchdowns passing and one rushing in a 37-20 win over Miami. Allen also has 163 pass attempts without an interception, dating to a 14-7 win at Tennessee in Week 6.

The Broncos have been deadly — to themselves — late in games, having squandered four fourth-quarter leads. The latest was a doozy as Denver became the first team in five years to blow a 20-point first-half lead in a 27-23 loss to Minnesota last Sunday. It all has John Elway's Broncos in jeopardy of a second 3-8 record in three years.

TAMPA BAY (3-7) at ATLANTA (3-7)

The Falcons have won the past five meetings be-

tween the NFC South rivals, with the Buccaneers' previous victory coming over three years ago.

Atlanta enters this matchup having won two in a row overall after starting the season 1-7. Meanwhile, Tampa Bay has lost five of its past six. What does it all mean? Well, the loser in this one will fall into sole possession of last place in the division.

Buccaneers quarterback Jameis Winston leads the NFL with 22 turnovers, including a league-high 18 interceptions. He'll face a Falcons defense that had four interceptions in a win over Carolina.

OAKLAND (6-4) at NEW YORK JETS (3-7)

The Raiders are coming off having swept a three-game homestand for the first time since 1980. Now, they hit the road, where they're 1-3 this season.

Oakland rookie running back Josh Jacobs has three 100-yard performances and ranks fourth in the NFL in rushing with 923 yards. He'll face a tough test in this one against a Jets defense that is allowing a league-low 79.1 yards rushing per game. □

Islanders beat Pens 4-3 to extend point streak to 16 games

NEW YORK (AP) — Brock Nelson scored his second goal of the game 4:16 into overtime, and the New York Islanders beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Thursday night to extend their point streak to a franchise-record 16 games. Nelson, who also scored the overtime winner at Pittsburgh on Tuesday night, got a pass from Mathew Barzal on the left side on a rush. He cut across the front of a goal to avoid a defender and draw goalie Matt Murray out of position, and then backhanded the puck into the right side for his eighth.

The Islanders improved to 15-0-1 during their streak while winning their fifth straight since an overtime loss to the Penguins on Nov. 7. New York had earned points in 15 straight games three times previously, the last during a 15-game win streak in the 1981-82 season. Evgeni Malkin had a goal and an assist for the Penguins. Murray finished with 20 saves.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, COYOTES 1

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Sheldon Keefe won his coaching debut with Toronto, and the Maple Leafs stopped a six-game slide. Auston Matthews, Tyson Barrie and Pierre Engvall scored for Toronto, and Frederik Andersen stopped 30 shots. It was Barrie's first goal of the season, and the first one of Engvall's career. Keefe took over for the fired Mike Babcock on Wednesday.

Vinnie Hinostroza scored for Arizona with 17 seconds left. Darcy Kuemper finished with 29 saves.

PANTHERS 5, DUCKS 4, OT

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Aaron Ekblad scored his second goal of the game 22 seconds into overtime, and the Panthers rallied with five straight goals.

Brett Connolly sparked the comeback with two goals in 27 seconds in the second period, and Dominic Toninato tied it with 4:23 remaining in the third. Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves, and Aleksander Barkov and Jonathan Huberdeau each had two assists.



Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender Matt Murray (30) reacts as New York Islanders' Brock Nelson, left, scores a goal during the overtime period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in New York. The Islanders won 4-3.

Florida became the second team in NHL history to overcome a deficit of four-plus goals to win a game multiple times in a season, joining the 1983-84 Edmonton Oilers. The Panthers also pulled off the trick in a 5-4 shootout win at Boston on Nov. 12.

Ondrej Kase had a goal and an assist for the Ducks, and Rickard Rakell, Nick Ritchie and Max Jones also scored. John Gibson stopped 23 shots.

CANUCKS 6, PREDATORS 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Bo Horvat scored one of Vancouver's five power-play goals, and the Canucks stopped a three-game slide. Vancouver went 5 for 6 with the man advantage. Elias Pettersson had a goal and two assists, and Tyler Graovac, J.T. Miller and Brock Boeser also scored power-play goals before Tanner Pearson made it 6-3 with a short-handed goal with 2:02 remaining.

Nashville dropped its sixth consecutive game. Ryan Johansen, Calle Jarnkrok and Matt Duchene scored for the Predators, and Pekka Rinne made 12 saves on 17 shots before he was replaced by Juuse Saros.

STARS 5, JETS 3

DALLAS (AP) — Jamie Benn scored with 4:21 left, and the rolling Stars got the win

after they blew a three-goal lead.

Mattias Janmark returned from injury to score the first of three Dallas goals in the second period, all assisted by Corey Perry.

Patrik Laine got his 17th goal in 15 games against Dallas, and Luca Sbisa tied it with 4:46 left in the third. Benn scored 25 seconds later, skating across the slot and slipping a shot into the right side of the net. Tyler Seguin added an empty-netter with 35 seconds to play.

The Stars won their fifth straight to go to 12-1-1 in the last 14 games. The Jets had won five of six.

SHARKS 2, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1, OT

LAS VEGAS (AP) — San Jose's Logan Couture scored 3:20 into overtime, and Aaron Dell made 37 saves.

Timo Meier scored early in the second period for San Jose, and Brayden McNabb tied it midway through the third.

Dell had perhaps his best performance of the season against a team that had given him fits in his three prior meetings. Dell came in 0-2-1 with a 4.28 goals-against average and an .868 save percentage against the Golden Knights.

Vegas goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 27

shots.

San Jose is 7-3-0 in November to improve to 11-11-1 overall.

KINGS 5, OILERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tyler Toffoli had two goals and an assist to lead the Kings to the victory.

Jeff Carter added a goal and two assists for Los Angeles, which has won five straight at home. Anze Kopitar and Michael Amadio also scored, and Jonathan Quick made 25 saves.

Edmonton star Connor McDavid scored to extend his point streak to nine games. Mikko Koskinen made 16 saves after replacing Mike Smith, who allowed three goals on 12 shots in the first period.

BRUINS 3, SABRES 2

BOSTON (AP) — David Pastrnak got his NHL-leading 20th goal, helping Boston to the victory.

Brad Marchand scored twice for the Bruins, who won for the third time in four games (3-0-1) following a four-game skid. Tuukka Rask stopped 35 shots. Buffalo has dropped nine of 10 (1-7-2) after winning nine of its first 12 games. Rasmus Ristolainen and Brandon Montour scored for the Sabres, and Linus Ullmark had 24 saves.

Bruins star center Patrice Bergeron had an assist in

his return after missing two games with a lower-body injury.

WILD 3, AVALANCHE 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Jason Zucker scored midway through the third period, and the Wild won consecutive games for the second time this season.

Mats Zuccarello and Jordan Greenway also scored for Minnesota. Alex Stalock made 25 saves and Ryan Suter added two assists as the Wild improved to 5-0-2 in their last seven home games.

Cale Makar scored two goals for the Avalanche. Andre Burakovsky had two assists, and Philipp Grubauer made 28 saves.

BLUES 5, FLAMES 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis goaltender Jordan Binnington stopped 40 shots for his sixth career shutout, and Oskar Sundqvist scored twice.

Zach Sanford had a goal and three assists, helping the Blues improve to 9-1-2 in their last 12 games. David Perron and Vince Dunn also scored, and Robert Thomas had three assists.

David Rittich finished with 26 saves for Calgary, which has lost six in a row while being outscored 23-5.

LIGHTNING 4, BLACKHAWKS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Cirelli and Brayden Point scored 2:39 apart midway through the third period, and Tampa Bay earned its eighth consecutive victory against Chicago.

Mikhail Sergachev scored a power-play goal in the first period, and Cedric Paquette added an empty-netter. The Lightning played without NHL MVP Nikita Kucherov, who is day to day after suffering an upper-body injury in the second period of Tuesday's 3-1 loss at St. Louis.

Steven Stamkos, who leads the Lightning with seven goals and 20 points, was held out of the second and third periods but was on the bench. He played 5:17 over nine shifts in the first.

Brent Seabrook and Dylan Strome scored for Chicago, and Corey Crawford made 31 stops. □



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots over Portland Trail Blazers' Carmelo Anthony during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Bucks beat Trail Blazers

Continued from Page 17

... He found some guys, they made some 3s, kind of opened the game up."

Antetokounmpo had 24 points, 19 rebounds and a career-high 15 assists to lead the Bucks to their seventh win in the last nine games against Portland.

"I couldn't get going offensively," Antetokounmpo said. "Shots weren't falling and they were showing a lot of crowds. I tried to find my teammates and they were in the right spots. They were able to knock down shots and to roll hard. I just did half of the work and my teammates did the rest." Antetokounmpo, who also had a triple-double in the season opener, became the first player in franchise history to record a game with 20 points, 15 rebounds and 15 assists. The 6-foot-11 forward has 16 career triple-doubles. Milwaukee is 14-2 in those games.

Eric Bledsoe added 30 points and six assists in the Bucks' highest-scoring game of the season.

After scoring 10 points on 4-of-14 shooting in 24 minutes in his season debut Tuesday night against the Pelicans, Anthony had 10 points in the first half Thursday. Anthony finished with 18 points (6-of-15 shooting) and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who were without Hassan Whiteside (hip), Damian Lillard (back), Zach Collins (shoulder) and Jusuf Nurkic (leg).

"He's getting his sea legs after having that year off," Portland guard CJ McCollum said about Anthony. "Getting used to that movement, getting used to how the game is flowing."

McCollum scored 37 points and Skal Labissiere added 22 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks for Portland. The Trail Blazers lost their third straight game overall and their sixth straight in Milwaukee.

The Bucks made their first seven shots, including three 3s, and led 17-6. Milwaukee never trailed.

The Bucks also had their highest first-half total, leading 72-58.

The Blazers used a 40-point third quarter to close the gap and pulled within 117-115 with just over 7:00 play. But Brook Lopez and Wes Matthews hit back-to-back 3s to seal the Bucks victory.

"I thought we competed," McCollum said. "I thought we played hard. Obviously, we came up short. But I thought it was a step in the right direction."

Milwaukee made 21 of 26 free throws against 12 of 14 for the Trail Blazers and outrebounded Portland 58-41.

"Keep in mind, their starting center (Lopez) didn't even get a rebound," Trail Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "So they did all that rebounding without even their center getting it. So they got them from a lot of different positions. We have to be aware of it. We can't assume that anybody else is going to get it. We don't have one guy that's going to go snatch all the rebounds. We gotta do it with five guys." □



WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, left, and Luis Ortiz pose during a final news conference at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

Associated Press

Deontay Wilder rolls the dice in Las Vegas fight with Ortiz

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Deontay Wilder is rolling the dice in a city where a good gamble can quickly go bad.

Beat Luis Ortiz on Saturday and a lucrative rematch with Tyson Fury in February can't come soon enough. Walk into the wrong end of a big right hand, though, and any plans to dominate the heavyweight division will have to be drastically revised.

It almost happened when the two first met last year. The way Ortiz hits, there's no guarantee it won't happen now.

Unfortunately for boxing fans, they'll have to buy the pay-per-view to find out in real time.

"He is one of the most dangerous fighters in the division, period," Wilder said. "That's why so many guys don't want to fight him."

Wilder is a 7-1 favorite to beat the 40-year-old Cuban and retain the piece of the heavyweight title in the fight at the MGM Grand Garden arena. It will be the 10th title defense for the erratic but big-punching Wilder, who is counting on a win to keep his scheduled Feb. 23 date against Fury.

"Where I've got to go is through Ortiz and straight to Fury," Wilder said. "My schedule is packed with a lot of fun in the heavyweight division. Fights people want to see."

Wilder (41-0-1, 40 knockouts) puts his unbeaten record on the line in a heavyweight bout that is the first of three planned fights in upcoming months that will say a lot about the state of the heavyweight division.

Two weeks later, Anthony Joshua tries to regain his title from Anthony Ruiz Jr. in Saudi Arabia, and, assuming Wilder wins against Ortiz, he will face the former champion Fury in February.

"The heavyweight division is strong and back and Deontay Wilder is definitely the one bringing the excitement to it," Wilder said.

Just why Wilder is fighting Ortiz again instead of a less risky bout is mainly about the money. The fight will be on Fox pay-per-view (suggested price \$74.99), giving Wilder a chance to make far more than the \$2.1 million he got to stop Ortiz in the 10th round of their first fight in March 2018.

Ortiz will get a nice payday, too, and a chance to finish off what he couldn't in the first fight when he had Wilder out on his feet in the seventh round but couldn't put him away.

"I was going to finish him and the fight was over basically," Ortiz said. "I haven't had any other situation like that where I hadn't gotten a knockout in a scenario like that. So it's just a matter of putting some punches together and winning this fight."

That Ortiz has the power to stop any heavyweight is not in dispute. The loss to Wilder is the only blemish on a 31-1 record with 26 knockouts in a career that began in 2010 after he left Cuba to make his fortune in professional boxing.

But he's stocky and relatively slow and doesn't have a signature win on his record. And though Ortiz claims to be 40, there are some in boxing who believe he may be older than he says.

Still, he has three straight wins since suffering his only loss and is determined to make good in what might be his last real chance at a heavyweight title.

"You absolutely never know what Wilder is going to do as far as how he approaches his fights," Ortiz said. "But one thing for sure is that both mentally and physically I'm at my best and prepared. So he can bring whatever he is going to bring." □

In a first, IBM's computer debater faces off against itself

By JAMES BROOKS

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP)

— The chamber hushed as the debate got underway at the Cambridge Union and the teams launched into their carefully crafted opening statements.

The topic - whether artificial intelligence would do more harm than good - was something each side had a big stake in because both were using the technology to deliver their arguments.

Cambridge University, home to the world's oldest debating society, was the setting Thursday night for a demonstration of what the future might hold. IBM's Project Debater, a robot that has already debated humans, was for the first time being pitted against itself, at least in the first round.

Artificial intelligence "will not be able to make a decision that is the morally correct one, because morality is unique to humans," the computer system said in a synthetic and vaguely feminine voice.

"It cannot make moral decisions easily and can lead to disasters. AI can cause a lot of harm," it continued. Artificial intelligence



In this photo taken on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, audience members look on during a debate on the threat of artificial intelligence at the Cambridge Union, the world's oldest debating society, Cambridge, England.

can only make decisions it has been programmed for and "it is not possible to program for all scenarios, only humans can." Then, the machine switched sides, delivering the opposing team's argument.

Artificial intelligence "will be a great advantage as it will free up more time from having to do mundane and repetitive tasks," it said, its voice embodied by a blue waveform on a screen set

into a two-meter-tall sleek black monolith-like pillar.

Audience members at the society, which has hosted notable figures including British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the Dalai Lama, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates over its 200-year history, were spellbound by its first non-human guest.

After first pitting the technology against a human last year, IBM challenged it to present opposing argu-

ments, in a display of its latest advances.

Unlike its earlier debate, which relied on analyzing a huge trove of newspaper and magazine articles for its replies, researchers this time crowd-sourced contributions from 1,100 Cambridge students and fed the answers to the computer.

They wanted to find out, "Can you use the technology to generate a compel-

Associated Press

ling narrative that will help the decision maker to take a better decision?" said lead scientist Noam Slonim. The system had to identify which side the crowd-sourced contribution was on, rank the best arguments, filter out spelling mistakes and bad grammar, then present a persuasive five-minute statement — a process IBM said took about a minute.

Potential applications for the technology include helping a company or government carry out surveys or gather feedback from clients. The night wasn't totally devoid of humanity.

Project Debater quipped, "Let's move to an issue close to my artificial heart: technology," drawing laughter from the crowd.

And then human debaters took over in the rebuttal and closing rounds, while also jokingly dubbing the computer "Debbie" and "Cybertronia the All-Knowing."

At the end of the night, audience members sided with the argument that artificial intelligence does more good than harm.

Its future is assured, at least for now. □

U.S. regulators bar govt telecom funds for Huawei, ZTE

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

U.S. communications regulators have cut off government funding for equipment from two Chinese companies, citing security threats.

The Federal Communications Commission also proposed requiring companies that get government subsidies to rip out any equipment from Huawei and ZTE that they already have in place.

It's the latest action by the U.S. government against Chinese tech and telecom companies.

The FCC voted unanimously Friday to bar U.S. telecommunications providers from using government subsidies to buy equipment from Huawei or ZTE. The FCC's order mostly affects small, rural



In this Sept. 26, 2018, file photo, visitors walk beneath the logo of Chinese technology firm ZTE at the PT Expo in Beijing.

Associated Press

companies, as larger U.S. carriers do not use equipment from those Chinese companies.

As for replacing existing equipment, The FCC is asking for comment on how to help rural telecoms financially. Bills in Congress have proposed setting \$700 million to \$1 billion aside. A trade group for

small rural wireless carriers has said that it would cost up to \$1 billion for its dozen companies to replace their Huawei and ZTE equipment. It says that Huawei has 40 customers in the U.S. (Huawei is also a member of the trade group, the Rural Wireless Association.)

The group said Friday that it

was "cautiously optimistic" that the FCC's approach would let its companies keep providing services to customers and give them funding to replace any banned equipment.

Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of telecom gear as well as a major cellphone manufacturer. The U.S. government has said that Huawei poses an espionage threat, but has presented no evidence of its equipment being used for spying by the Chinese government. The U.S. has been pressuring allies to ban Huawei from their networks and has restricted exports of U.S. technology to Huawei, though numerous loopholes have been exploited.

Huawei said in a statement Friday that the FCC order is unlawful and reiterated

that there is no evidence it poses a security risk. The company said it has been deemed a security threat "based on selective information, innuendo, and mistaken assumptions." It said that the FCC's actions will hurt connectivity for rural Americans. ZTE did not respond to requests for comment Friday. ZTE has also denied that China uses its products for spying. A congressional report in 2012 labeled both Chinese companies as security risks. Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, said the FCC's move Friday was a good one, but took too long and did not go far enough. She said there needs to be a "coordinated national plan" for securing next-generation cellular networks, known as 5G. □

US stocks mixed as market's weeklong rally peters out

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock indexes were mixed in midday trading Friday as a week dominated by the progress in U.S.-China trade talks — or lack thereof — comes to a close.

President Donald Trump said that a deal between the world's largest economies is "potentially very close" after Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing is working to "try not to have a trade war," but will nevertheless fight back if necessary. Markets around the world have churned this week on uncertainty about whether the two sides can soon halt their trade dispute, or at least stop it from escalating. New U.S. tariffs are set to hit Dec. 15 on many Chinese-made items on holiday shopping checklists, such as smartphones and laptops. Tariffs already put in place have hurt manufacturing around the world, and businesses have held back on spending given all the uncertainty about where the rules of global trade will end up.

The S&P 500 was on pace for its first gain in four days. But it's still set to finish the week with a loss, which would snap its longest winning streak in two years.



In this Sept. 18, 2019, file photo, stock prices are displayed at the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was down 0.1%, as of 11:20 a.m. Eastern time. It had earlier been up 0.3%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 37 points, or 0.1%, to 27,804, and the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.2%. The S&P 500 was nearly evenly split between stocks rising and falling.

TRADE TALKS: Trump said "we have a very good chance to make a deal" in an interview with Fox News after reports through the week raised the possibility that a "Phase 1" agreement

may not be in place until 2020. But he also stressed, again, that he thought Xi wanted to make a deal more than he did.

In Beijing, Xi earlier told a visiting U.S. business delegation, "We want to work for a Phase 1 agreement on the basis of mutual respect and equality."

TAKING A PAUSE: The uncertainty on trade has the S&P 500 on pace to close the week with a 0.5% loss. If it stays that way, it would be the first down week for the index in the last seven.

Stocks had been chugging higher on optimism that earlier worries about a possible recession were overdone. Reports in recent months showed the job market remained solid, and corporate profits held up better than expected in the summer. Interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve also helped.

The S&P 500 is still within 0.7% of its record set on Monday.

RETAIL RUN: Nordstrom surged 9.3% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500 after

the retailer said it made a bigger profit last quarter than Wall Street expected. It was a bright spot for the retail sector after a long list of mall-based clothing retailers delivered weak third-quarter earnings reports. Macy's cut its profit and sales forecast for the year as shoppers continue to head online instead of to the store.

RISING GLOBAL TIDE: Markets around the world climbed amid a mixed set of economic reports.

In Europe, France's CAC 40 rose 0.1%, and Germany's DAX returned 0.2%. The FTSE 100 in London jumped 1.3%.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.3%, South Korea's Kospi gained 0.3% and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong climbed 0.5%.

SWEET RETURNS: J.M. Smucker jumped 4.8% after it reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than Wall Street expected.

It joins a long list of companies to do so. Nearly 96% of companies in the S&P 500 have now told investors how much profit they made during the summer, and they're on pace to report a drop of 2.3% from a year earlier. That's not as bad as the 4% drop that analysts were earlier expecting. □

China raises estimate of economy's size following census

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's economy was 2.1% bigger than earlier estimated, the government said Friday, revising the gross domestic product for 2018 to 91.93 trillion yuan (\$13.1 trillion) based on results of a census.

The National Bureau of Statistics said Friday the revision reflects more complete measures of the services sector and assets. It raises the possibility China's communist leaders will attain their target of doubling the country's GDP between 2010 and 2020. The government also plans to issue revised GDP growth estimates for the world's second larg-



In this Nov. 1, 2019, file photo, an employee browses her smartphone at a clothing store having a promotion sale at a shopping mall in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province.

Associated Press

est economy but did not say when. The earlier estimate put the GDP in 2018 at 90.03 trillion yuan (\$12.8 trillion). That's still well below the U.S. GDP in 2018

of \$20.5 trillion. But the U.S. economy expands at a much slower pace — 2.9% in 2018 — than China's. China's economy expanded at an annual

pace of 6.0% in the July-September quarter, the slowest growth since 1992, as a tariff war with the U.S. and slowing global demand hammered its manufacturing sector. Businesses and consumers unnerved by the uncertain outlook for jobs and growth also have reined in spending in another drag on growth.

But given China's still faster growth and population of 1.4 billion people, it's expected to soon overtake the U.S. as the world's largest economy.

Chinese economic data are subject to more than the usual caveats about the reliability of statistics given past examples of

officials distorting information for political reasons. Though it's part of the long-term plan to restructure the economy, slowing growth runs counter to the ruling Communist Party's plan, adopted in 2012, to double the size of the economy between 2010 and 2020.

"The census revisions will also attract skepticism, but to a lesser degree, and should at least give NBS (the statistics bureau) more room to acknowledge downward pressure on growth in the coming quarters," Capital Economics economists Julian Evans-Pritchard and Martin Rasmussen said in a commentary. □

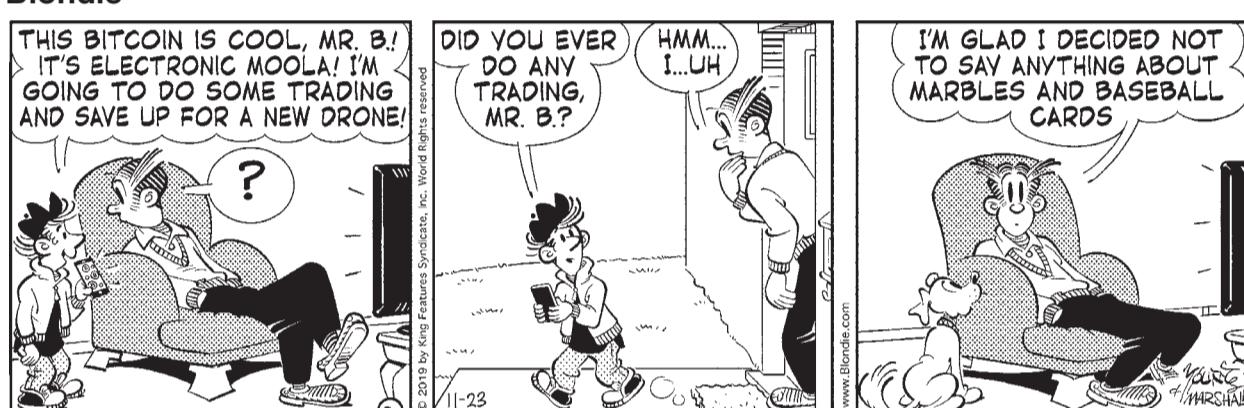
Mutts



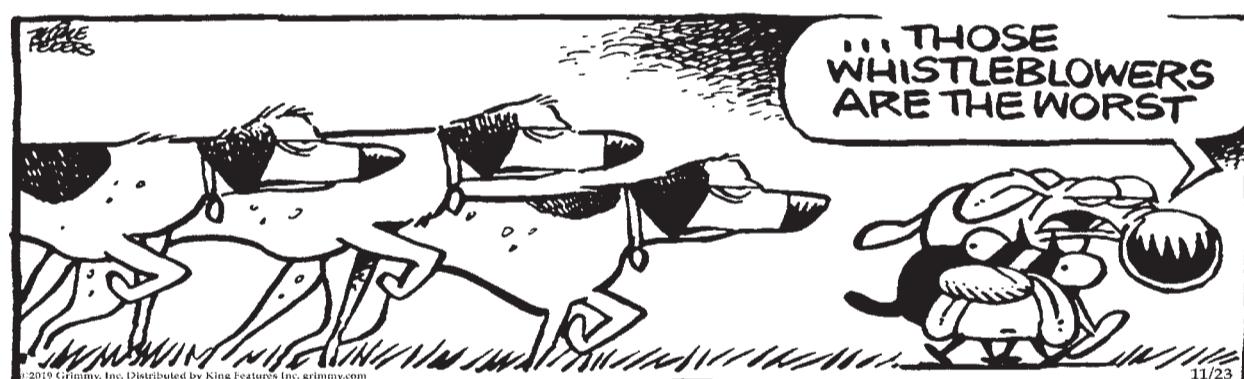
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6	5		2		4						
		4		9	1						
1											
4	2										3
8										1	2
										6	
2									4		
3								5		8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

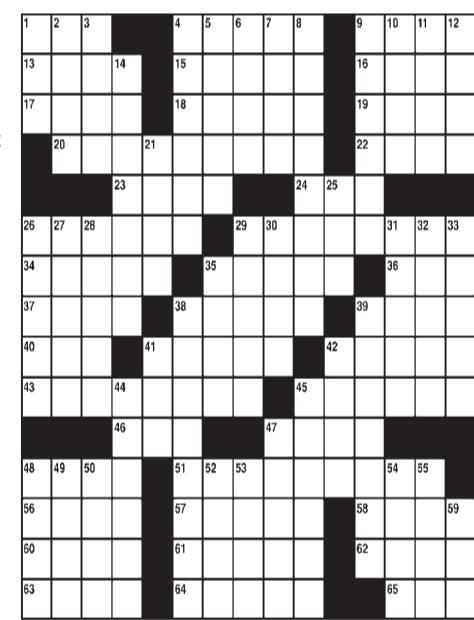
11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	8	5	2	7	9	4	6	3			
9	3	2	5	4	6	1	8	7			
7	4	6	3	1	8	9	5	2			
8	6	4	9	3	1	7	2	5			
2	7	9	4	8	5	3	1	6			
5	1	3	6	2	7	8	9	4			
6	5	7	8	9	4	2	3	1			
3	9	1	7	5	2	6	4	8			
4	2	8	1	6	3	5	7	9			

Yesterday's puzzle answer

11/23



Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	R	I	M	I	C	A	H	C	R	O	C
D	I	E	T	A	D	O	B	E	H	A	V
E	A	S	Y	C	O	P	E	N	G	H	E
C	S	I	B	A	L	D	S	A	L	E	R
D	R	A	W	S	A	L	E	T	A	E	
S	K	E	I	N	S	A	R	E	T	H	A
L	A	N	C	S	W	I	M	S	E	L	K
I	T	C	H	F	A	I	L	S	D	A	L
P	I	E	S	A	L	T	S	R	O	V	E
E	S	T	A	E	T	E	M	O	S	E	Y
O	N	E	P	A	T	E	N	T	P	A	T
S	T	O	U	T	H	O	S	E	W	O	W
C	O	R	U	R	A	G	E	O	M	A	U
A	D	Z	E	W	A	S	T	E	A	R	T
M	O	D	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	S	

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11/23/19

- 38 Hearer
- 39 Located under
- 40 Merit
- 41 Not at all ruddy
- 42 Mongolian desert
- 43 Steers clear of
- 44 Bluffing questions
- 45 Kitchen; eating area
- 46 Realtor's delight
- 47 Comfy room
- 48 O-T center
- 49 Outdoor banquet
- 50 Located under
- 51 Not at all ruddy
- 52 Keep out of sight
- 53 Comfy room
- 54 Kitchen; eating area
- 55 Realtor's delight



This Feb. 9, 2016, file photo shows ice forming on pipelines built near the Colville-Delta 5 field, or as it's more commonly known, CD5, drilling site on Alaska's North Slope.

Associated Press

U.S. agency to consider expanded drilling in Alaska reserve

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

The Trump administration will consider a new management plan and expanded oil drilling for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, an Indiana-size area that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar characterized as an "iconic place on our Earth."

The Bureau of Land Management announced Thursday it will take public comment through Jan. 21 on four alternatives for the reserve in northern Alaska. Two alternatives could allow lease sales on lands previously designated as special conservation areas under the Obama administration. "With advancements in technology and increased knowledge of the area, it was prudent to develop a new plan that

provides greater economic development of our resources while still providing protections for important resources and subsistence access," Padgett said. The reserve is home to two caribou herds and provides ecologically significant wetlands used for breeding by migratory waterfowl from around the world. Its entire coastline is habitat for threatened polar bears. In 2013, Salazar signed off on the current plan that split the reserve roughly in half between land for petroleum development and conservation areas. Kristen Miller, conservation director at Alaska Wilderness League, said the Interior Department spent years working on the plan with tribal and local governments, conservation organizations, the state of Alaska and others.

TODAY

BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown

Weststraat

High Rose Hotel

Bus terminal

Weststraat

Scheepstraat

Caya G.F. Belisca Croes

Caya G.J.

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Bacteria-infected mosquitoes take bite out of deadly dengue

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — They still bite, but new research shows lab-grown mosquitoes are fighting dangerous dengue fever that they normally would spread.

Dengue infections appear to be dropping fast in communities in Indonesia, Vietnam, Brazil and Australia that are buzzing with the specially bred mosquitoes, an international research team reported Thursday.

It's the first evidence from large-scale field trials that mosquitoes are less likely to spread dengue and similar viruses when they also carry a type of bacteria that's common in insects and harmless to people.

Rather than using pesticides to wipe out bugs, "this is really about transforming the mosquito," said Cameron Simmons of the nonprofit World Mosquito Program that is conducting the research.

The first hint of success came from Australia. Mosquitoes bred to carry Wolbachia bacteria were released in parts of North Queensland starting in 2011, and gradually spread through the local mosquito population. Dengue is transmitted when a mosquito bites someone who is infected, and then bites another person, but somehow Wolbachia blocks that — and local transmission has nearly disappeared in those North Queensland communities, Simmons said in an interview.

The real test would come in dengue-plagued areas in Asia and Latin America that regularly experience outbreaks where millions get the painful and sometimes deadly disease.

Thursday, Simmons' team reported a 76% decline in



In this Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, file photo, a technician releases mosquitoes that are infected with a dengue-blocking bacteria called "Wolbachia" in the Tubiacanga neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

dengue recorded by local authorities in an Indonesian community near the city of Yogyakarta since the 2016 release of Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes. That's compared to dengue transmission in a nearby area where regular mosquitoes do the biting. Researchers found a similar drop in a community near the southern Vietnamese city of Nha Trang. And preliminary results suggest large declines in dengue and a related virus, chikungunya, in a few neighborhoods in Brazil near Rio de Janeiro.

The studies are continuing in those countries and others. But the findings, presented at a meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, suggest it's possible to turn at least some mosquitoes from a public health threat into nuisance biters.

The work marks "exciting progress," said Michigan

State University professor Zhiyong Xi, who wasn't involved with the project but has long studied how Wolbachia can turn mosquitoes against themselves. Reducing disease "is the ultimate success of our field," added University of Maryland biologist Brian Lovett, who also wasn't part of the

project. More research is needed, specialists cautioned. These studies used local health groups' counts of dengue cases rather than blood tests, noted Penn State University professor Elizabeth McGraw. And while Wolbachia has persisted in North Queensland

Associated Press

mosquitoes for eight years and counting, whether mosquitoes maintain dengue resistance that long in harder-hit regions remains to be seen.

"The results are pretty exciting — strong levels of reductions — but there clearly are going to be things to be learned from the areas where the reductions are not as great," McGraw said.

More than half of insect species, from fruit flies to butterflies, naturally are infected with Wolbachia — but not the main dengue-spreader, Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. They're daytime biters that thrive in hot urban and suburban localities where, for now, widespread pesticide spraying is the main protection.

Researchers with the World Mosquito Program first injected mosquito eggs with Wolbachia in a lab. Infected females then pass the bacteria on through their eggs. Releasing enough Wolbachia carriers, both the females that bite and the males that don't, allows mating to spread the bacteria through a local mosquito population. □

Spain has permits to build giant telescope blocked in Hawaii

By JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— The director of a Spanish research center said Wednesday that a giant telescope, costing \$1.4 billion, is one step nearer to being built on the Canary Islands in the event an international consortium gives up its plans to build it in Hawaii.

Canary Islands Astrophysics Institute Director Rafael Rebolo told The Associated Press that a building permit for the telescope has been granted by the town of Puntagorda on the island of La Palma.

The international consortium backing the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) wants to build it atop Hawaii's tallest peak. But some native Hawaiians



This July 24, 2009 file photo shows the Gran Telescopio Canarias, one of the world's largest telescopes, at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos on the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain.

Associated Press

Observatory, was chosen as a back-up site for the telescope in 2016.

As point man for the alternative site, Rebolo said he maintains regular contacts with the consortium and Spain's ministry for science. □

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TV comedy greats take a bow, make 'em laugh at ceremony

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

"There's nothing I believe more than this, that laughter adds time to one's life," Norman Lear told an audience gathered to honor him and other four other television comedy greats.

"I believe that as much as I believe my mother loved me," the writer-producer added. "She said she did. But I wasn't sure."

Like the 97-year-old Lear, who made his name — and TV history — with groundbreaking sitcoms like "All in the Family" and "The Jeffersons," the other honorees at Thursday's Paley Center for Media ceremony proved that talent is ageless. Carl Reiner, 97; Bob Newhart, 90; Carol Burnett, 86, and Lily Tomlin, 80, each won over the room with their humor and memories.

"Guess this is a hell of a time to tell you no, we're not coming to your Christmas party," Newhart teased Conan O'Brien after the late-night host introduced him as "one of my all-time comedy heroes."

"He pulls off the hardest kind of comedy — timeless, human, clean and subversive. And he makes it all look effortless," O'Brien said of Newhart.

The onetime accountant



Honoree Norman Lear, right, is congratulated by presenters Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Anthony Anderson onstage at "The Paley Honors: A Special Tribute to Television's Comedy Legends" at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

became an instant sensation in 1960 with his debut album, the Grammy-winning "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart," scored sitcom hits with "The Bob Newhart Show" in the 1970s and "Newhart" in the '80s and won an Emmy as Professor Proton on "The Big Bang Theory."

The sentimental moments included Rob Reiner's introduction of his father, the writer-actor-producer whose TV career stretched from the 1950s variety series "Caesar's Hour" to creating "The Dick Van Dyke Show"

to a recent role in "Angie Tribeca."

"This is the nicest thing, to be able to do this for my dad," said the younger Reiner, who gave him an arm for support as they walked onto the hotel ballroom stage at The Paley Honors: A Special Tribute to Television's Comedy Legends.

Carl Reiner, who credited a government-supported acting program with his childhood start in entertainment, charmed the audience by reciting lines from a Shakespeare soliloquy he

learned as a kid and sharing an anecdote about another TV comedy force, Jack Benny. He called his children and grandchildren his greatest pride.

Carol Burnett was introduced by Kristin Chenoweth, who lauded the singer-actress-comedian as one of the few who can do it all and always "with such heart."

Burnett, who starred on Broadway, as well as TV, recalled what preceded the 1967 arrival of "The Carol Burnett Show."

"As a woman in this busi-

ness, it wasn't always easy to do what the naysayers said couldn't be done," she said. When she sought to exercise a contract clause with CBS for an hour-long variety show, Burnett said executives told her, "and I quote, 'It's not for you gals.'"

She punctuated the story with a derisive "huh." Her long-running show won armloads of Emmy Awards on CBS.

Tomlin, whose parade of characters made her a hit on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" and who stars opposite Jane Fonda on "Grace and Frankie," was self-effacing, saying she couldn't match Newhart's "sterling one-liners." Instead, she delighted the audience by reciting some of her characters' catch-phrases, including telephone operator Ernestine's "one ringy dingy." Lear was introduced by "black-ish" star Anthony Anderson, who said Lear's work forced audiences to confront difficult issues while shedding light on common bonds, and by late-night host Jimmy Kimmel, who said the producer used laughter to challenge "us to make progress."

The night's last word went to Lear. "Bless you all, thank you all. To be continued," he said, smiling. □

Young priest confronts mysteries of past in Harris' thriller

By MICHAEL HILL

Associated Press

"The Second Sleep," Alfred A. Knopf, by Robert Harris Christopher Fairfax is a newly ordained priest assigned by his bishop in 1468 to ride out to the isolated English village of Addicott St. George to handle the funeral of its longtime vicar, Thomas Lacy, who died suddenly in an accident. Well-meaning but inexperienced, Fairfax becomes ensnared in a situation where he must deal with inscrutable locals, hidden forces and strange artifacts dug up from the earth. Fairfax quickly finds out things are different than they seem at first blush. The

reader does, too, when Harris introduces a significant twist early in the story. If you want to avoid that spoiler, stop reading this review now.

Harris has built a steady career writing historical novels based on the rise and fall of Cicero, Neville Chamberlain's notorious "peace in our time" deal with Adolf Hitler and France's infamous Dreyfus affair. He has strayed into alternative histories, too, with "Fatherland: a Novel," set in 1964 where the Nazis won World War II.

This book is also set in an imagined reality, one that is hundreds of years in the future after a global cata-

clysm in our current time. The artifacts being collected in this post-technological time include plastic straws and an iPhone. What did 21st-century beings use these artifacts for? People in the book aren't quite sure. And the authorities — Fairfax's church foremost among them — absolutely do not want people digging up and studying the distant past.

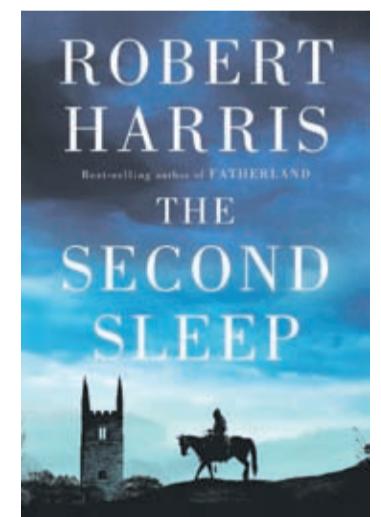
Lacy had ignored that injunction. Inevitably, Fairfax gets drawn in, too.

Harris is a fluid writer who expertly sets the scene and then turns the screw bit by bit to build tension. The book subtly explores themes of faith, the risks of

technology and the power of the state to control knowledge.

There are engaging characters like Nicholas Shadwell, the heretical, wheezy researcher of the forbidden past. Local mill owner Capt. John Hancock is an overbearing capitalist always in overdrive and always interesting. But as the main character, Fairfax can come off as too much of a milquetoast.

And the end of the book seems kind of abrupt after some 300 pages of patient, methodical buildup. The villain gives a monologue that ties up some loose ends and then the book seems to just stop suddenly.



This cover image released by Knopf shows "The Second Sleep," by Robert Harris.

Associated Press

It feels like a roller coaster ride that ends before that last big plunge. □

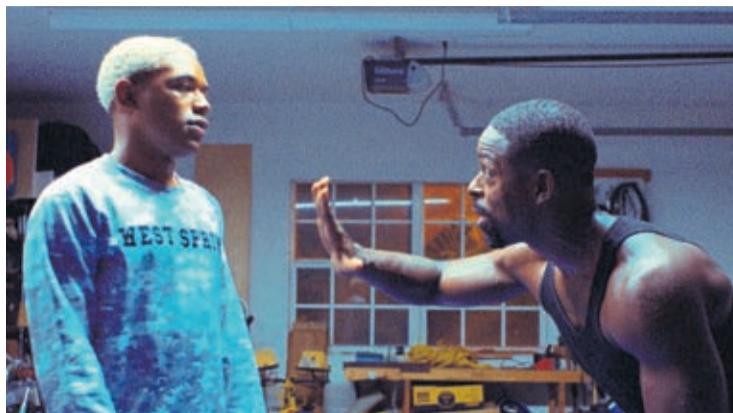
'Waves' explores the ebb, flow of a family's love

By JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

Rarely has a movie's title been so apt as that of "Waves," a film that makes you feel like you've been knocked flat over by a fierce current — only to be rescued by a gentle, soothing flow of warm surf that arrives in the nick of time. This third feature by the gifted young writer-director Trey Edward Shults, a portrait of an upper-middle

class black family in Florida, rewards repeat viewing. There's just so much to absorb, from the assault of sound and bright color and the propulsive soundtrack in the film's first half, to the more reflective pace and subtle glow of the second. (The supremely confident Shults takes his time; the film runs two hours and 15 minutes.)

And we haven't even gotten to the performances



This image released by A24 shows Kelvin Harrison Jr., left, and Sterling K. Brown in a scene from "Waves."

Associated Press

yet. "Waves" offers up a sextet of them, all superb. The most recognizable names are Sterling K. Brown, who plays a flawed and domineering but loving patriarch, and Lucas Hedges, deeply winning as the love interest for the family's daughter.

But prepare to be bowled over by two relative newcomers: actress Taylor Russell, who quite simply has the most expressive young face to be seen onscreen in many a season, and Kelvin Harrison Jr., who can be cocky and vulnerable in the same split second. Both of these wonderful young actors break our hearts. We'll surely be seeing them again and again.

Renee Elise Goldsberry and Alexa Demie round out the cast with empathetic and appealing work as, respec-

tively, a harried stepmother struggling to hold things together, and a fun-loving, passionate girlfriend. Shults, who is white, has said he did not initially plan for the family in "Waves" to necessarily be a black one, but wanted first and foremost to work again with Harrison Jr., and gave him the choice of roles. Harrison chose to play the son, Tyler. The film begins with the most peaceful of images: a young girl riding on a bicycle on an empty road, sun squinting through the trees. But then we move to a different vehicle: a car ride shot in a dizzying (literally) 360-degree shot.

This first part of the film, focusing on 17-year-old Tyler, unfolds with startling speed. The camera rushes in, out, and around in circles, reflecting the frenetic pace

of Tyler's life. That life is composed of competitive wrestling, homework, training, beach outings and late-night parties. But life with dad Ronald takes its toll. At the diner after church one morning, father challenges son to an arm wrestling match right at the table. At home, he lifts weights with his son, exhorting him to work harder.

The point is to excel. "We are not," father tells son, "afforded the luxury of being average." It's hardly a shock when we see Tyler popping painkillers and swigging alcohol to stay afloat.

The balance of Tyler's high-octane life is disrupted, dangerously, by two sudden setbacks: an athletic injury and a major complication involving his girlfriend. His sleek veneer starts to crumble; we watch as he becomes a frustrated, angry kid. He tests boundaries with his parents and provokes fights with Alexis. And then tragedy strikes. It comes with crushing force. And the film takes a dramatic pivot.

As the family copes with the unthinkable event that's engulfed them, suddenly Emily (Russell), the unheralded sister, becomes the focus. And the movie slows down, palpably. □

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PHB	MON-FRI 4:10 6:35 9:00
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Pollstar says U2 top touring act over the last decade



In this June 11, 2018 file photo, Bono of U2 performs during a concert at the Apollo Theater in New York.

Associated Press

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — It was a beautiful decade for U2 on the touring front, as the

The touring trade publication tracks data on tours globally. It says U2 grossed \$1.03 billion in ticket sales from November 2009 to November 2019. They were followed by The Rolling Stones, which had just under a billion with \$929 million; Ed Sheeran was third with \$922 million; Taylor Swift was fourth with an estimated \$900 million; and Beyoncé was at No. 5 with \$857 million.

Rounding out the top 10 were Bon Jovi, Paul McCartney, Coldplay, Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band and Roger Waters. VenuesNow, Pollstar's sister outlet, named London's O2 the top grossing venue. □

Winfrey, Coates among speakers at tribute to Toni Morrison

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In offering tribute to Toni Morrison, speakers from Oprah Winfrey to Fran Lebowitz on Thursday each shared a very different, but equally special portrait of the late Nobel laureate, who died in August at 88.

Angela Davis remembered a dear friend who as a Random House editor helped launch her writing career and would jot down notes for what became the classic "Song of Solomon" as she cooked eggs for her family. Lebowitz marveled at Morrison's seemingly photographic memory of the bad reviews she had received. Poet Kevin Young once went to the movies ("The Five Heartbeats") with her and otherwise proudly sat at her feet. Winfrey spoke of Morrison's majestic, sometimes intimidating presence, and of the complexity of her work, novels such as "Beloved" for which a single reading was not enough. She also acknowledged that her heroine, so down to earth on some occasions, was well aware that she really was Toni Morrison.

"She told me once, 'I've always known I was gallant,'" Winfrey confided



In this Nov. 8, 2006, file photo, American novelist Toni Morrison, smiles during a press conference at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

to thousands gathered at sundown at Manhattan's historic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where more than 30 years earlier Morrison had been among those saying goodbye to James Baldwin.

"Who says that? Who even goes there?"

With its massive rose window and nave ceiling reaching more than 100 feet, the cathedral was suitably grand for an au-

thor who may well endure as the essential American literary voice of her time, one who universalized the stories of black Americans and raised American prose to poetic heights.

Attendees were young and old, of diverse genders and races, members of the publishing world and long-time fans.

They filled the front seats, and the back seats. Some sat quietly through the

roughly 100-minute ceremony, others murmured, affirmed and cheered out loud.

Speakers stood in the cathedral's pulpit and hailed the spirit of Morrison. Jesmyn Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner, outlined the long history of how blacks had been robbed and usurped and called Morrison a kind of prophet who found a wandering people "in the desert

Associated Press

of the self" and saved them, deeming them "worthy to be heard." Author Edwidge Danticat, fondly speaking of Morrison's smoking a cigarette at the Louvre in Paris, noted her identities as a mother, grandmother, sister, editor and teacher, and now, in her passing, an ancestor.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, not even born when Morrison published her debut novel "The Bluest Eye," acknowledged his jealousy that some got to know her so well. Morrison's impact on him was through her printed words. He spoke of being startled by the landmark "Black Book," a scrapbook of black American life that his father kept in the family's bookstore in the 1970s. He praised the economy and poetry of her language, her sense of humor and the wisdom of what he called "grown folks literature." Words on Thursday were interspersed with music, from the dreamlike saxophone solo of David Murray to singer-pianist Andy Bey's reflective take on "Someone to Watch Over Me." But the deepest music was in the words of Morrison, in a passage from "Song of Solomon" — selected by Winfrey — about the power and possibility of land. □

Tom Waits' songs shine on female-focused tribute

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

Various artists, "Come On Up to the House: Women Sing Waits" (Daultone)

Hard-times troubadour Tom Waits gets the Great American Songbook-style treatment in "Come On Up to the House," a classy collection of covers performed by two generations of female singer-songwriters.

The album, produced by musician/writer Warren Zanes to mark Waits' 70th birthday, makes clear that he deserves it. Waits is a superlative American songwriter, whose snapshots of life in the streets and on the road have survived — even thrived on — interpretation by artists as varied as Rod Stewart and The Ramones.

Contributors on "Come On Up to the House" include Roseanne Cash and Patty Griffin, and many of the 12 tracks feature stripped-down arrangements that reveal the strong melodies and pungent imagery of Waits' songs, with their veins of hurt and flashes of hope. At its best, the result is spine-tinglingly melancholy. An understated vocal against a plain piano backdrop is all that's needed for the title track to shine in a rendition by Portland, Oregon, trio Joseph.

Stripped of Waits' raspy growl, the mood of many songs becomes plaintive rather than gritty. Phoebe Bridgers' delivery of the tragic ballad "Georgia Lee" is a shade too delicate;

the same could be said of indie-folk band The Wild Reeds' wispy take on "Tom Traubert's Blues."

Distinctive takes are provided by Iris Dement, who brings an old-timey country feel to "House Where Nobody Lives," and Kat Edmonson's swoony retro-pop stylings on "You Can Never Hold Back Spring."

At its best, this is an album on which fine singers and fine songs gel seamlessly, from Corinne Bailey Rae's languid swing on "Jersey Girl," to Aimee Mann's authoritative rendition of "Hold On." Best of all, sisters Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer bring a beautiful unhurried power to Waits' "Ol' 55" — another bittersweet tale of restless movement and "rid-



This cover image released by Daultone shows "Come on Up to the House: Women Sing Waits," a classy collection of covers performed by two generations of female singer-songwriters.

Associated Press

ing with lady luck." Even in the gutter, Waits' work reassures us, it's possible to look at the stars. □

In Brazil backlands, termites built millions of dirt mounds

By VICTOR CAIVANO

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

PALMEIRAS, Brazil (AP) —

Roy Funch, an American botanist who has lived and worked in Brazil's hard-scrabble northeast for decades, long looked at huge cone-shaped mounds of mud in the distance and wondered.

What built them? How many were there? How long had they been there? After years of failing to generate interest in the mounds, a chance meeting with an English expert on social insects, Stephen Martin, led to remarkable discoveries: There are over 200 million mounds built by termites that stretch across 88,800 square miles (230,000 square kilometers), about the size of Great Britain.

What's more, some of the dirt heaps are nearly 4,000 years old.

"While the Romans were building their columns, their buildings, these termites were building their mounds," Funch said, adding that the dirt piles represent the largest bioconstruction of any species other than humans.

The mounds, seen in various places in a vast desert-like region called the Caatinga, stand between 6 and 13 feet (2 to 4 meters) high and are spaced roughly equally apart — between 52 and 72 feet (16 to 22 meters).

To landowners who clear brush to plant crops, the mounds are a nuisance. Bulldozing them is difficult because over years of be-



A soldier termite with large pincers stands guard while smaller worker termites gather dead leaves and cut them into pieces near Lencois, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

ing baked in the hot sun, the already-hard dirt and clay become like stone. Poor people in the area use chunks of the mounds to build adobe houses. Funch says he wrote two articles about the mounds in Brazilian publications, but they didn't draw any attention. Without expertise in insects or the world of scientific publishing, he wasn't sure how to take his research to the next level. Asking local people didn't help.

"Some would say they are termites, some would say ants, some would say: 'Well, they have always been there. They are part of nature,'" Funch said.

Enter Martin, an entomologist at the University of Salford in England. A few years ago, Martin was in northeastern Brazil studying

honey bees and ants in the state of Bahia. He, too, was curious about the mounds. "I was intrigued because of their patterns," he said.

By chance, Martin and Funch met next to a river in Lencois, a small town in Bahia about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of the edge of the mound area.

When Martin mentioned seeing the mounds while he was driving around, Funch told him: "You just met the only guy in Brazil who is working on these mounds." The two teamed up, and their research was published Nov. 19 in Current Biology.

The pair concluded the mounds were built by *Syntermes dirus*, a large termite species that feeds on leaves and lives underground. While the termites are found in the region, the researchers didn't find them actively working in the larger mounds, but instead along the edges of areas with mounds.

Cutting into several mounds, they found only a small tube-like hole going to the top of each one, not an extensive pattern of tunnels throughout. That suggested the termites were simply finding a place to chuck earth from underground, where they build their tunnels. "These are just waste heaps," said Martin. "Under normal cir-

cumstances we wouldn't see them because they wouldn't persist for such a long time."

In more humid areas where the same species lives, such as the Amazon, the mounds are eroded by rain and wind. But the Caatinga ecoregion gets rainfall only a few weeks a year. The desert shrubland vegetation covers and camouflages the mounds in large swaths of the area, one of the reasons they were essentially hiding in plain sight.

Funch said improvements in Google Earth's imaging in recent years helped them understand the extent of the formations via spatial mapping.

"The mounds go on forever in every direction," said Funch, who initially came to Brazil as a Peace Corps vol-

unteer in 1977 and stayed. The mounds are also very old. Radioactive testing determined they ranged in age from 690 to 3,820 years.

"It could have been a giant termite (that built the mounds)," joked Luciano Oliveira, a local who lives in a house made with earth taken from a mound. "Nobody knows."

While many people view termites as pests because some species eat wood, and thus homes, the social insects are also some of the world's best engineers, building vast networks of underground tunnels and huge heaps of dirt.

An Associated Press journalist who accompanied Funch to watch the nocturnal termites at work saw soldier termites about a half-inch long and with large pincers stand guard while smaller workers gathered

dead leaves and cut them in smaller pieces, making "click, click, click" sounds as they worked. When a flashlight was shined on the termites for a few seconds, they scurried down small holes. Rob Pringle, a Princeton biology professor who has studied termites and their mounds in Kenya, Mozambique and Namibia, said fighting between termite colonies can lead to patterns in the mounds they produce.

The fact that the Brazil study found the termites didn't fight unless they were from colonies several kilometers apart means there is a lot more to discover about how termites create such patterns. □



Giant termite mounds cover a field near Palmeiras, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019.

Associated Press



American botanist Roy Funch sits on top of a giant termite mound near Palmeiras, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018.

Associated Press